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The following Decision is distributed for your information. This Decision has been made in consideration of the specific facts of this case. This Decision is not to be interpreted as establishing any new mandatory policy or procedure otherwise officially promulgated.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FINAL DECISION

OAL DKT. NO. HPW 01529-18 A.T.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C677154007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits contending that he failed to provide documents, specifically, verification of how he supported himself. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 26, 2018, the Honorable Kimberly A. Moss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On that same day, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner applied for WFNJ/GA benefits on November 27, 2017. See Initial Decision at 2; see also "Application and Affidavit for Work First New Jersey," dated November 27, 2017. In order to determine eligibility for assistance, Petitioner was given a Notice of Verification indicating that he must provide a letter stating how he supports himself; or if he was receiving money from any source, that he must identify the source of assistance, how much assistance he receives, how often he receives the assistance, and if the assistance will continue. See Initial Decision at 2; see also "Notice of Verification," dated November 27, 2017. Petitioner testified that he was not receiving assistance; however, he further testified that his brother pays his rent and that his brother faxed a letter to the Agency stating same. See Initial Decision at 2. The ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that the Agency does not have any verification from Petitioner's brother regarding rental payments. Ibid. Moreover, Petitioner did not provide the Agency with written verification of how he supports himself. Ibid. Based on the forgoing, the ALJ determined that Petitioner failed to provide the Agency with verification as to how he supports himself as requested in its Notice of Verification provided to Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 3; see also "Notice of Verification," dated November 27, 2017. Therefore, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also "Notification Form," dated January 4, 2018, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.



Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version.

APR - 5 2018

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Natasha Johnson

Director

