



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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NATASHA JOHNSON
Director

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 10818-18 D.A.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C136250011 (MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS..)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits contending that she failed to comply, and cooperate, with the application process by not providing requested documentation. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 28, 2018, the Honorable Dean J. Buono, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On August 29, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that on June 12, 2018, Petitioner applied for WFNJ/TANF benefits, and was asked to appear at the Agency on the following day for an interview. See Initial Decision at 2. In order to complete the application process, Petitioner was also required to provide the Agency with her minor child's Social Security number ("SSN"). See Initial Decision at 2-3. Petitioner appeared the following day, but was later removed from the facility due to her causing a scene. Id. at 2. Petitioner did not return to the Agency after the June 13, 2018, incident, and did not provide the Agency with the required SSN information. Id. at 3. The ALJ found that Petitioner did not provide the minor child's SSN as required. Id. at 4. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner failed to comply and cooperate with the Agency's requests for information, and that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/TANF benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.5(a), -2.2(a)(5). I agree.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by Petitioner on August 30, 2018.

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.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/TANF benefits, provided she continues to need such benefits, and is otherwise eligible for same. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2. Petitioner is reminded that she must provide the Agency with all necessary documentation needed to determine eligibility. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5).

By way of further comment, I have reviewed Petitioner's Exceptions, and I find that the arguments made therein do not alter my decision in this matter.



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

Officially approved final version.

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Natasha Johnson
Director

