



State of New Jersey

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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 18416-17 K.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C142788003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF"), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/TANF and SNAP benefits contending that she failed to provide necessary documentation to complete her application. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 8, 2018, the Honorable Carl V. Buck, III, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record remained open for submission of documents from the Agency, then closed on January 23, 2018.

On January 30, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that on September 6, 2017, Petitioner applied for WFNJ/TANF and SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-4. On September 28, 2017, the Agency sent Petitioner a form requesting further documentation to necessary to complete her WFNJ/TANF and SNAP benefits applications. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. A second form, requesting documentation, was sent to Petitioner on October 5, 2017. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2. Although Petitioner did not submit the requested documentation, on October 10, 2017, the Agency was advised by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services that Petitioner had an open SNAP benefits case in that state. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibits P-1, R-3. Thereafter, on December 5, 2017, the Agency denied Petitioner's applications for WFNJ/TANF and SNAP benefits, because her applications were over thirty and sixty days old, respectively, and she had not provided the necessary requested documentation. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit P-2. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that Petitioner was receiving SNAP benefits from Pennsylvania at the time she applied for same in New Jersey, and that Petitioner had failed to provide the requested documentation needed to process her WFNJ/TANF and SNAP benefits applications, and therefore concluded that the Agency had properly denied Petitioner said benefits. See Initial Decision at 5; see also Exhibit P-2, and N.J.A.C. 10-87-2.14, -2.19, -2.20, and N.J.A.C. 10-90-2.2(a). 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.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/TANF and SNAP benefits, if she has not already done so, but is hereby put on notice that she will need to supply the Agency with all documentation requested.



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

Officially approved final version.

FEB - 2 2018

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Natasha Johnson

Director

