



State of New Jersey

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

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NATASHA JOHNSON
Assistant Commissioner

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 11906-19 M.H.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C769364007 (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 had failed to provide required documentation. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 11, 2019, the Honorable Kimberly A. Moss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On September 12, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that on July 9, 2019, the Agency requested documentation from Petitioner needed to determine his eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits, specifically, a letter detailing the financial support he received from his mother. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1, 3. By Notice of Verification dated August 8, 2019, the Agency requested an additional letter from Petitioner's mother to clarify if she was going to continue to provide Petitioner with financial support for his monthly rental payments. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2. Petitioner failed to provide the requested letter, and as a result, by notice dated August 19, 2019, the Agency denied WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 4-7. Petitioner acknowledged that both the August 8, 2019, Notice of Verification, and the August 19, 2019, adverse action notice, were correctly addressed, however, he testified that he did not receive the August 8, 2019, Notice of Verification. See Initial Decision at 2-3. The ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide the required documentation, that he had been advised that a letter of support was needed from his mother, and that he was properly noticed of the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits. *Id.* at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1, 2, 4-7. Accordingly, 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 Exhibit R-1 at 4-7, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5), -9.1(a), (b). 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 advised that he may reapply for WFNJ/GA benefits, but must provide the Agency with all requested documentation necessary to determine his WFNJ/GA benefits eligibility. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5).

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

OCT 11 2019

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

