



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

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 13866-24 C.J.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C226010020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Petitioner's Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits, and the termination of Petitioner's Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that he failed to come into compliance with his WFNJ mandatory work activity in order to lift the sanction imposed on his WFNJ benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, contending that he had exhausted his lifetime limit of said benefits, and subsequently denied Petitioner's application for an extreme hardship extension because he was no longer a WFNJ benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 7, and continuing on October 8, 2024, the Honorable Daniel J. Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On October 9, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination. Here, in order to continue to be eligible for WFNJ/GA benefits, Petitioner was required to participate in a WFNJ work activity, specifically, a WFNJ approved training program. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also Exhibits R-5, R-6, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(2), -4.2(b)(1) (i). The record reflects that Petitioner was sanctioned for failing to comply with his work activity, resulting in the termination of his WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-4, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.13, -4.1(d). It also appears from the record that, as of the time of the hearing, despite being provided several opportunities by the Agency to come into compliance with his work activity, Petitioner has failed to come into compliance. See Initial Decision at 3-5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.13(a), (b), (c). Based on the testimony of the parties, and the record provided, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to comply with his WFNJ work activity by failing to attend a WFNJ approved training program, without good cause, and concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3-5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(e), -4.1(d), -4.13. I agree.

Additionally, due to Petitioner's failure to come into compliance with his work activity, and the resultant termination of his WFNJ benefits case, the ALJ found that, as Petitioner was no longer a WFNJ/GA recipient, the Agency's denial of Petitioner's EA benefits extreme hardship extension application, and consequent termination of said benefits, was also proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 2-6; see also Exhibits R-1, R-3, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a) (limiting eligibility for EA benefits to WFNJ and Supplemental Security Income benefits recipients). I also agree.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by Petitioner on October 9, 2024.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with his current needs, including Social Services for the Homeless.

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. October 17, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

