



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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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 **10087-24 D.H.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S482233014 (MORRIS CO. OFFICE OF TEMP ASSISTANCE)**

Petitioner appealed from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. An initial telephonic hearing was scheduled for October 3, 2024, before the Honorable Susana E. Guerrero, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), but was adjourned at Petitioner's request. See Initial Decision at 2. The hearing was rescheduled for October 31, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. Ibid. On that date, during the pre-hearing conference, Petitioner could not decide whether to proceed with the hearing or withdraw her appeal. Ibid. The ALJ concluded the pre-hearing conference at 11:30 a.m., as another hearing was scheduled at that time, and informed the parties to call back at 2:00 p.m. at which time they would proceed with the hearing. Ibid. The Agency appeared at that time, and was ready to proceed, however, Petitioner failed to call back into the hearing. Ibid. The ALJ and the Agency waited for over 15 minutes for Petitioner to call in, but she did not. Ibid. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had abandoned her request for a fair hearing. Ibid. As a result, also on October 31, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, concluding that Petitioner abandoned her appeal, thereby dismissing Petitioner's appeal. Ibid.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, as I find that Petitioner abandoned her appeal in this matter. As such, the Agency's July 10, 2024, termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits, remains in force as issued.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and Petitioner's appeal is hereby DISMISSED with prejudice.

Officially approved final version. December 04, 2024

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

