



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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 **06564-24 K.F.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C101547001 (ATLANTIC CO. DEPT OF FAM. & COM. DEV)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits at redetermination. The Agency denied Petitioner continued WFNJ/TANF benefits at redetermination, contending that there were no eligible children in her household. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 28, 2024, the Honorable Rebecca C. Lafferty, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On July 2, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that Petitioner's mother has joint legal custody of Petitioner's child, that Petitioner had moved out of her mother's home in February 2024, and that pursuant to Court Order and mutual agreement, the child continues to live with Petitioner's mother. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3-4, 6. Petitioner's child's residence is substantiated by Petitioner's mother's receipt of WFNJ/TANF benefits since March 2024, the child's attendance at school in the mother's district, and the Agency's investigative report. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 8-11. Consequently, because Petitioner does not have an eligible child in her household, at redetermination, the Agency denied her continued WFNJ/TANF benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.7(a). Based on the testimony and documentation submitted, the ALJ concluded that the Agency properly denied continued WFNJ/TANF benefits to Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.7(a). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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, Petitioner is advised that she may apply for WFNJ/General Assistance benefits, if appropriate. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.7(b).

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



Officially approved final version. August 14, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

