



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 **05897-24 T.K.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C741997002 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA benefits for failure to provide information necessary to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. This matter was originally scheduled for August 15, 2024, but was adjourned to obtain information from Petitioner's court-appointed guardian. On September 12, 2024, the Honorable Thomas R. Betancourt, Administrative Law Judge, ("ALJ"), held the telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On September 13, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development ("DFD"), Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency's determination, based on the discussion below.

Here, the record reflects that Petitioner applied for WFNJ/GA benefits on December 12, 2023, and the Agency thereafter sent Petitioner a request for verifications on January 2, 2024, requesting additional information in order to determine eligibility pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6, -2.2(a). See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. Petitioner did not provide any of the verifications requested and the Agency denied his application for WFNJ/GA benefits on January 18, 2024. Ibid. Petitioner has a court-appointed guardian, who was granted Letters of Guardianship on August 6, 2021 by the Bergen County Surrogate's Court. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2. However, Petitioner submitted the WFNJ/GA application on his own behalf and not through his guardian. See Initial Decision at 3. During the hearing, Petitioner admitted that he did not submit the verifications requested by the Agency and believed the Agency would contact his guardian for such verifications. See Initial Decision at 4.

Based on the foregoing, the ALJ in this matter concluded that the Petitioner had not provided the required verifications and the Agency's subsequent denial of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4. I agree.

Further, the ALJ noted that, even if Petitioner had timely submitted the requested verifications to the Agency, he would be found ineligible for WFNJ/GA benefits as his income exceeds the income limits set forth within N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1, as well as the fact that he is currently enrolled as a college student (see State Appropriations Acts for Fiscal Years 2013 (P.L. 2012, c. 18) and 2014 (P.L. 2013, c. 77) which provides that amounts appropriated for WFNJ/GA benefits shall not be



expended to provide benefits for recipients enrolled in college as defined at N.J.A.C. 9A:1-1.2.). See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also Exhibits R-3, R-4. Based upon the limited record in this matter, I also agree.

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

Officially approved final version. October 08, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

