



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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NATASHA JOHNSON
Director

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 09639-18 C.S.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C158722020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") and Emergency Assistance ("EA"), benefits. On July 11, 2018, a plenary hearing was scheduled before the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ").

On July 11, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, finding that Petitioner abandoned her claim because, while the ALJ was on the bench, and before the hearing commenced, Petitioner left the waiting area and did not return. See Initial Decision at 2. Therefore, the ALJ affirmed the Agency's denial of WFNJ/TANF and EA, benefits to Petitioner. Ibid.

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 in this matter.

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

Officially approved final version. **JUL 23 2018**

Natasha Johnson
Director

