



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

CAROLE JOHNSON
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

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 04529-18 D.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C131915001 (ATLANTIC CO. DEPT OF FAM. & COM. DEV)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits for a period of 90 days contending that he voluntarily quit employment. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 11, 2018, the Honorable Dean J. Buono, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On May 22, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby MODIFY the ALJ's Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency's determination.

Here, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates that Petitioner voluntarily quit his employment, without good cause. See Initial Decision at 2-3, 8; see also Exhibit R-1 at 9-15, 22. Specifically, the ALJ did not find Petitioner credible when he testified that he was not fired, that he did not quit, and that the written statement he made as part of the application process for WFNJ/GA benefits, stating that he left his job on January 24, 2018, because it "wasn't working out for me," was not what he had meant. See Initial Decision at 2-3, 8; see also Exhibit R-1 at 9. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner for a period of 90 days was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 7-8; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.15. I agree.

Additionally, it is not clear from the record whether or not a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") one-month disqualification period was imposed upon Petitioner due to his voluntary quit. However, as the ALJ concluded that Petitioner voluntarily quit his employment, and also cited to the SNAP regulation regarding such disqualification, I hereby impose upon Petitioner a one-month period of ineligibility for SNAP benefits, if the Agency has not imposed same already. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2-3, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.5(a), (c)(2)(vi). The Initial Decision is modified to reflect this finding.



By way of comment, Petitioner may reapply for WFNJ/GA benefits if he has not already done so.
Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby MODIFIED, and the Agency's action is AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version.

JUN 11 2018

Natasha Johnson
Director

