



State of New Jersey

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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 02164-18 J.P.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C472589007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/General ("WFNJ/GA") and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits contending that he failed to comply with the work activities required pursuant to the Supportive Assistance for Individuals and Families Program ("SAIF"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 5, 2018, the Honorable Andrew M. Baron, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On March 29, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination regarding the termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits.

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 ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency's determination.

Here, the record reflects that, as a requirement for receipt of WFNJ/GA benefits, Petitioner was required to participate in SAIF, which required him to comply with certain work activities, and to provide all necessary information and documents required to obtain employment. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2-5, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.20. However, Petitioner refused to cooperate with the job readiness organization that he was referred to by the Agency. See Initial Decision at 2-3. Specifically Petitioner refused to fill out any necessary paperwork, and refused to provide the organization with his social security number, his birth date or any other information necessary for obtaining potential employment. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1, 10, and 11. Petitioner testified that he refused to complete the necessary paperwork because it was too lengthy, the questions were intrusive, and he did not need the kind of help that he was being offered from anyone. See Initial Decision at 2. Consequently, the Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits for failing to comply with SAIF. *Id.* at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 6-9, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.20. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner failed to comply with SAIF, and that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 6-9, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.20. I agree.

Further, although the ALJ did not address the transmitted issue regarding the termination of Petitioner's SNAP benefits, based on the ALJ's conclusion regarding the termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits, and an independent review of the record, I find that Petitioner must comply with the Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents ("ABAWD") work requirement provisions pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.20 in order to receive SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 3-4. It is clear from the record that Petitioner has refused to participate in a work activity, and as such, he is also ineligible for



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SNAP benefits. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1, 10, and 11, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.20. Therefore, I find that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's SNAP benefits was proper and must stand.

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

Officially approved final version.

APR 06 2018

Natasha Johnson
Director

