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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 03581-18 S.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S613190012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") and Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits, and a reduction of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA and EA benefits, contending that he was no longer eligible for said benefits because he was now receiving Retirement, Survival and Disability Insurance ("RSDI") benefits, and reduced his SNAP benefits based on the updated calculation of his household income. Petitioner's WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits appeal was filed separately from his EA benefits appeal. Because Petitioner appealed, the matters were transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. Petitioner's appeals, assigned OAL Docket Numbers HPW 03581-18 and HPW 04016-18, respectively, were thereafter consolidated. On April 6, 2018, the Honorable David M. Fritch, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On April 19, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, Petitioner started receiving WFNJ/GA and EA benefits, as well as SNAP benefits, in early 2018. On February 11, 2018, Petitioner was informed by the Social Security Administration that he would start receiving RSDI benefits in the amount of \$1579 per month, starting in March 2018. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-9. Due to the increase in his monthly income from the receipt of RSDI benefits, on February 15, 2018, the Agency notified Petitioner that his SNAP benefits would be reduced, and on March 8, 2018, notified him that his WFNJ/GA benefits would be terminated, as the RSDI benefits exceeded the maximum allowable income for receipt of WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibits R-2, R-3 at 4-6, 13. The Agency also notified Petitioner that he was no longer eligible for EA benefits because he was no longer a WFNJ benefits recipient. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-10. Based on the record presented, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of WFNJ/GA and EA benefits, and the reduction of SNAP benefits, due to the receipt of Petitioner's RSDI benefits income, was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4-7; see also Exhibits R-2, R-3, R-10, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(4), -3.6, -6.1(a), -6.2(a), and N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.5(a)(2), -6.16, -12.6. I agree.

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.



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

Officially approved final version.

APR 27 2018

Natasha Johnson

Director

