



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 14290-17 S.P.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C111764008 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of her Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits contending that she failed to appear for her redetermination appointment. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. The matter was scheduled for a hearing on December 15, 2017, but was adjourned on request of Petitioner. On February 9, 2018, the Honorable Jeffrey R. Wilson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On February 16, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that on July 11, 2017, the Agency sent Petitioner notice that she was scheduled for a face-to-face interview on August 10, 2017, for a redetermination of her WFNJ/TANF benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1. Petitioner neither appeared for the appointment, nor called to reschedule. See Initial Decision at 2. Therefore, on August 17, 2017, the Agency sent Petitioner a notice terminating her WFNJ/TANF benefits effective September 1, 2017. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2-3. Petitioner testified that she had been in a car accident and that her physician put her on bed rest during the time period that included the appointment date; however, Petitioner provided no documentation to support her claim. See Initial Decision at 3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that the Agency had properly terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits for failure to appear at the redetermination interview appointment on August 10, 2017, without good cause. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2-3, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.22. I agree.

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.

By way of comment, the record reflects that on September 5, 2017, Petitioner reapplied for WFNJ/TANF benefits, and was approved for, and is receiving, said benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 12-14.



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

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Director

MAR 28 2018

