



State of New Jersey

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

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 00924-19 D.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S918119009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") and Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits as it contended that Petitioner did not maintain a separate household. The Agency also denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA benefits due to Petitioner's failure to provide documentation. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 5, 2019, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence.

On March 19, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency's denial of SNAP and WFNJ/GA benefits. Here, the record reflects that on October 31, 2018, Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. The ALJ found that Petitioner lives with his mother, and that she shops for food and cooks for the both of them. Ibid. Based upon this information, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, advising that Petitioner and his mother could not be considered separate households for SNAP purposes since the documentation provided indicated that they share meals together. Ibid.; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2(a)(3), (c)(4).

Thereafter, Petitioner reopened his case to include his request for WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. The Agency then requested that Petitioner provide a copy of his tax return, proof of filing an application for Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits, and a completed MED-1 form. Ibid. The ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to submit the requested documents. Ibid. Accordingly, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA benefits. Ibid.; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5).

Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's actions were correct and affirmed the denial of SNAP and WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2(a)(3), (c)(4), -90:2.2(a)(5). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.



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As Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the record for this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision. Following an independent evaluation of the record, I concur with the ALJ's decision in this matter and I hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as contained in the Initial Decision.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/GA benefits should his circumstances change. Petitioner is reminded that he must timely comply with all Agency requests for documentation.

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

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Director

MAR 27 2019

