



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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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 03371-19 D.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C251881007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that she failed to provide the Agency with certain documentation. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 13, 2019, the Honorable Julio C. Morejon, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On March 15, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits were terminated on March 1, 2019, for failure to provide a current, valid MED-1 form. See Initial Decision at 1; see also Exhibits P-2 at 1-2, P-3. However, the ALJ found that Petitioner was not properly noticed of that termination, and as such, concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits was improper and must be reversed. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also Exhibits P-1, R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-9.1(a), (b). Subsequently, Petitioner provided the Agency with a current, valid MED-1 form, and on March 12, 2019, Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits were reinstated. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit P-2 at 3-4. Accordingly, the ALJ directed the Agency to provide Petitioner with retroactive WFNJ/GA benefits for March 1, through March 11, 2019. See Initial Decision at 5. 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.

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

MAR 22 2019

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Director

