



## State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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CAROLE JOHNSON  
*Commissioner*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

NATASHA JOHNSON  
*Assistant Commissioner*

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 14861-19 A.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C154612003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's sanctioning of her Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency sanctioned Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits, contending that she failed to comply with the mandatory WFNJ work activity. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 20, 2019, the Honorable John S. Kennedy, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 9, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner was required to participate in a WFNJ work activity from Monday through Friday, for thirty-five-hours per week, beginning September 9, 2019, and ending December 8, 2019, and that Petitioner executed an Individual Responsibility Plan ("IRP") wherein she agreed to participate in said activity. See Initial Decision at 2; see also R-1 at Exhibit 2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.1, -4.2, and -4.8. The ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to attend her scheduled work activity for the requisite hours required in September and October 2019, and had failed to appear at her scheduled work activity related assessment on October 9, 2019, all without good cause. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also R-1 at Exhibits 3, 4, 5, 9. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's sanctioning of Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits, for failure to comply with the required WFNJ work activity, was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also R-1 at Exhibit 6, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.11, -4.13. 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 AFFIRMED.



Officially approved final version.

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

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