



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

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

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 01831-20 D.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C087038009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits and the sanctioning of Petitioner's Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. A telephonic hearing was scheduled for July 1, 2020, before the Honorable Susana E. Guerrero, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"). On that date, Petitioner, as well as the Agency's fair hearing liaison and an Agency witness, appeared for the matter. While conferencing the case with the ALJ and the Agency representative, Petitioner hung up the telephone and did not call back to continue with the hearing. See Initial Decision at 2. The Agency representative and witness were ready and prepared to go forward with matter on that date, and as Petitioner failed to call back so that the hearing could be conducted, the ALJ found that Petitioner had abandoned her request for a fair hearing. Ibid. On July 10, 2020, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision memorializing the aforementioned procedural facts, and ordering that Petitioner's appeal be dismissed.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision and dismiss Petitioner's appeal in this matter.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, the matter DISMISSED.

JUL 16 2020

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

