



## State of New Jersey

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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 11605-25 G.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S666774012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

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 Petitioner failed to provide information necessary to determine continued eligibility for said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On July 3, 2025, an emergent hearing was held, at which time Petitioner withdrew his appeal of an Emergency Assistance ("EA") issue and agreed for the matter to proceed as a non-emergent case with respect to the termination of WFNJ/GA benefits. On July 7, 2025, and continuing on July 14, 2025, the Honorable Kim C. Belin, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence. On August 4, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied, and was approved for, WFNJ/GA benefits on November 20, 2024. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-5. On March 28, 2025, Petitioner began his redetermination application for WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. On the same date, the Agency requested additional verifications, which were due by April 28, 2025, in order to determine continued eligibility for benefits, specifically bank statements showing all transactions for the prior thirty days and explaining all deposits including source verification. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2. Petitioner failed to respond to the Agency, and thereafter, the Agency denied Petitioner's redetermination application for WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-3.

At the time of the hearing, Petitioner testified that he had never received any WFNJ/GA benefits following his initial application and further testified that he did not receive the request for verification letter sent by the Agency, nor have a redetermination phone interview. See Initial Decision at 3. Petitioner additionally testified that the Agency records showing cash benefits being deposited and withdrawn were fabricated and that someone at the Agency was utilizing his benefits. Ibid. The Agency representative presented testimony that Petitioner had received cash benefits from the time of his application until May 1, 2025, and that the Agency records showed cash assistance deposited onto Petitioner's benefits card, as well as purchases and withdrawals utilizing the card. Ibid. Further, the Agency representative testified that Petitioner's case was closed due to his failure to provide updated bank statements, as the statements previously submitted were "stale" and the Agency needed to review more recent documentation. Ibid. In addition, the Agency representative testified that Petitioner was granted WFNJ/GA benefits for June 2025, as the Agency had failed to conduct his redetermination interview as required, and that the Agency would issue a new benefits card. Ibid.

In order to determine eligibility for WFNJ benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2. Eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits requires the applicant to provide all necessary documentation. See N.J.A.C.



10:90-2.2(a)(5) (stating that “As a condition of eligibility for WFNJ benefits, the applicant shall, subject to good cause exceptions, be required to provide all necessary documentation.”).

The ALJ found that the Agency records showed both cash benefits deposits and withdrawals/purchases and that Petitioner was unable to substantiate any claims that he had not received his benefits, nor that anyone else had utilized his benefits. See Initial Decision at 4. Further, the ALJ found that Petitioner did not dispute that he did not supply more recent bank statements to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 5. The ALJ found that the Agency had met its burden to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the Agency had mailed the request for verification to Petitioner, that Petitioner failed to provide verification of his bank statements, and that Petitioner had received and use his cash benefits. See Initial Decision at 5-8. Based on the credible testimony and documentary evidence provided, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided all information required to be verified to determine continued eligibility, and as such, the Agency’s termination of WFNJ/GA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 8; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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 Initial Decision mentions that Petitioner applied for cash benefits in another county and that such application is currently pending. See Initial Decision at 8. Based upon the official records of this office, Petitioner was approved for and has been receiving WFNJ/GA benefits since July 2025 in Union County.

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

Officially approved final version.    October 02, 2025

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

