



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

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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 **10543-24 K.A.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C082570014 (MORRIS CO. OFFICE OF TEMP ASSISTANCE)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits, contending that his income and resources put him over the allowable benefit level for WFNJ/TANF eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 29, 2024, the Honorable Andrew M. Baron, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 4, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ in this matter issued a very thorough and comprehensive Initial Decision, outlining the procedural history, providing a detailed factual timeline, and rendering a well thought out analysis, applying law to fact. See Initial Decision at 2-4. Specifically, the ALJ found that Petitioner's receipt of income as an independent contractor in the monthly amount of \$4,394, and his credit card resources, put him over the maximum allowable WFNJ/TANF benefit eligibility level of \$599 for an assistance unit of three, such as his. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibits P-1, R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1(a), (c), -3.3(b), and Division of Family Development Informational Transmittal ("DFD IT") No. 19-21. Based on the foregoing, and the testimony and documentary evidence provided, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits was proper, and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3-4. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, DFD, 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, should Petitioner's circumstances change, he may reapply for WFNJ/TANF benefits. See Initial Decision at 4.

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

Officially approved final version. February 11, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner



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