



State of New Jersey

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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 **07739-26 R.B.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S494424014 (MORRIS CO. OFFICE OF TEMP ASSISTANCE)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits, at redetermination, and the termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that Petitioner failed to provide information necessary to determine continued eligibility for said benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because he was no longer a WFNJ cash benefits recipient, nor a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On June 25, 2026, the Honorable Thomas R. Betancourt, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence. On June 25, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations.

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 hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency's determinations, based on the discussion below.

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."). See also N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.22(a) (stating that "...the recipient shall execute a formal application for continuation for assistance.")

Only WFNJ cash assistance recipients and SSI benefits recipients are eligible for EA benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a).

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner was receiving WFNJ/GA benefits, when he was interviewed by the Agency on January 20, 2026, regarding his redetermination for benefits application. See Initial Decision at 2.; see also Exhibit R-1. On January 20, 2026, the Agency sent Petitioner a verification notice requesting that he return a signed application and addendums to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2. Petitioner failed to respond to the Agency, and thereafter, on February 18, 2026, the Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits, based upon his redetermination application for WFNJ/GA benefits not being signed and returned to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-4, R-5. On February 24, 2026, the Agency advised Petitioner of his redetermination application deficiencies via telephone. See Initial Decision at 2. On February 25, 2026, Petitioner went in person to the Agency and submitted documents. Ibid. At the time of the hearing, Petitioner testified that he did not dispute that he had failed to sign all



the required documents, but claimed that he never received a phone call from the Agency. See Initial Decision at 3. Subsequently, Petitioner's EA benefits were terminated, as he was no longer a WFNJ benefits recipient. See Initial Decision at 5; see also Exhibit R-5 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a).

Based upon the testimonial and documentary evidence presented, the ALJ found that the Agency had met its burden to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that Petitioner failed to provide a signed redetermination application and addendums, therefore the Agency was unable to determine continued eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 4-5. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided all documentation 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 5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). I agree.

Additionally, the ALJ concluded that, because Petitioner was not a WFNJ benefits recipient, nor an SSI benefits recipient, the Agency's termination of EA benefits to Petitioner was also proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). I also agree.

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

Officially approved final version. August 11, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

