

## **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Chris Christie Governor

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Elizabeth Connolly Acting Commissioner

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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 16405-15 C.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA118508 (SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's sanctioning of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits and the sanctioning of Petitioner's Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency sanctioned Petitioner's WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits due to non-compliance with her Individual Responsibility Plan ("IRP"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 30, 2015, the Honorable Bruce M. Gorman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held the plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On December 9, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination. Based upon the evidence presented in the matter, the ALJ found that Petitioner missed multiple days of her work activity in September of 2015. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner testified that she had car trouble and multiple doctor appointments due to health issues. Ibid. However, the ALJ concluded that nothing in the record supported Petitioner's claim that her failure to attend her work activity was due to her health issues. Id. at 3.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by either party.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record in this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision and I concur with the ALJ's decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

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Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is ADOPTED and the Agency's actions are hereby AFFIRMED.

Signed Copy on File at DFD, BARA

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Natasha Johnson Director