

State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Chris Christie Governor

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Jennifer Velez Commissioner

Jeanette Page-Hawkins Director Tel. (609) 588-2000

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 82-15 J.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA392125 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's termination of both his Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits as it contended that Petitioner failed to comply with the Supportive Assistance for Individuals and Families ("SAIF") program requirements. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits because he had voluntarily quit his employment. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 23, 2015, the Honorable John S. Kennedy, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence.

On February 4, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision affirming the Agency's termination of both Petitioner's WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 4-5. The ALJ found that the Agency presented credible evidence to demonstrate that Petitioner had not attended SAIF program meetings as required on three separate dates. See Initial Decision at 3. Additionally, the ALJ found that Petitioner did not have a valid driver's license, which was a requirement for his employment, despite having had his driving privileges restored. Ibid. The ALJ concluded that Petitioner provided no good cause basis for having missed the SAIF program meetings, and as such, affirmed the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits. See id. at 4. Furthermore, as Petitioner had not taken necessary steps to obtain his driver's license, and could not provide any good cause for failing to do so, the ALJ affirmed the Agency's termination of Petitioner's SNAP benefits based upon a voluntary quit of employment pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.5(a). See id. at 4-5.

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No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the record for this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision. Following an independent evaluation of the record, I concur with the ALJ's decision in this matter and I hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as contained in the Initial Decision.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is ADOPTED, and the Agency's determination, as to Petitioner's WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits, is hereby AFFIRMED.

EEB 11 2019

Signed Copy on File at DFD, BARA

Jeanette Page-Hawkins Director