



## State of New Jersey

### DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development  
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TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

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*Governor*

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*Acting Commissioner*

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*Director*  
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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 19691-15 M.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C1199420 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF"), the termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits, and the reduction of Petitioner's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits and reduced her SNAP benefits because her son no longer resides in her household. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because she was no longer a WFNJ/TANF recipient, and therefore no longer eligible for EA benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 29, 2015, the Honorable Ronald W. Reba, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On the same day, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, Petitioner previously received WFNJ/TANF and EA benefits for her two-person assistance unit. See Initial Decision at 2. However, after an investigation into Petitioner's home, it was determined that her household size was no longer comprised of two people, as her son no longer resided with her. *Id.* at 3; see also Exhibit R-3. Therefore, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner was no longer eligible for WFNJ/TANF and subsequently, no longer eligible for EA. *Ibid.*; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.7(a)(1); see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2. I agree.

No Exceptions to this Initial Decision were filed.

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As the Director of the 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 in this matter.

By way of comment, the transmittal in this matter reflects a contested issue pertaining to the reduction of Petitioner's SNAP benefits, which was not directly addressed by the ALJ in his Initial Decision. Based upon a review of the record in this matter, it appears that Petitioner is receiving the maximum allowable amount of SNAP benefits for her household size of one person, \$194.00. See Exhibit R-2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2 and Division of Family Development Instruction 15-09-01. Therefore, because Petitioner is receiving the maximum allowable amount of SNAP benefits for her household size, the SNAP reduction issue has been rendered moot. However, if Petitioner's benefits are subject to a reduction or other change moving forward, she may request a fair hearing on that matter.

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

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

JAN 13 2016

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Natasha Johnson  
Director