

## **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Chris Christie Governor

Kim Guadagno Lt. Governor Division of Family Development P.O. Box 716 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson Director Tel. (609) 588-2400

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 12473-15 R.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C018976 (MORRIS CO. OFFICE OF TEMP ASSISTANCE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of her Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits and Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("EA/TRA"). The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF and EA/TRA benefits because her household income exceeds the maximum allowable limit for cash benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 10, 2015, the Honorable Gail M. Cookson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On September 20, 2015, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision affirming the Agency determination.

In her Initial Decision, the ALJ found that Petitioner receives child support payments that exceed her monthly WFNJ/TANF benefit amount of \$424.00. See Initial Decision at 4. On that basis, the ALJ agreed with the Agency's determination that Petitioner is no longer eligible for WFNJ/TANF cash benefits because her income exceeds the maximum allowable income level for WFNJ/TANF eligibility. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.8(h). Moreover, because Petitioner is no longer a WFNJ/TANF recipient, she is ineligible for EA/TRA. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). Therefore, the ALJ concluded that the Agency correctly terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF and EA/TRA benefits, and that the Agency's action should be affirmed.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

Page 2

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

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

Signed Copy on File at DFD, BARA

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Natasha Johnson Director