



State of New Jersey

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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 01214-18 B.N.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C099505002 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of her Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits because Petitioner had reached the lifetime limit for said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 15, 2018, a plenary hearing was scheduled before the Honorable Kelly J. Kirk, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ").

Petitioner appeared for the hearing on that date. See Initial Decision at 2. While another hearing was on break, the ALJ started Petitioner's hearing; however, the prior hearing had to recommence and Petitioner's hearing was put on hold. Ibid. Petitioner was advised that her hearing would be continued, but Petitioner did not want to wait, and left prior to concluding her hearing. Ibid. As a result, the ALJ found that Petitioner had abandoned the hearing, and dismissed the appeal. Ibid.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the record and the ALJ's Initial Decision and hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision in this matter.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED. As Petitioner abandoned her appeal, the Agency's action stands, and is thereby AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version.

APR 27 2018

Natasha Johnson
Director

