



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
P.O. Box 716
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Chris Christie
Governor

Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

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 14055-14 C.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S529674 (MIDDLESEX 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") and Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On November 5, 2014, the Honorable Leland S. McGee, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On November 6, 2014, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination.

Neither party filed exceptions to the Initial Decision.

As Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record for this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision, and having made an independent evaluation of the record, I ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency determination

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.14, an adult recipient of WFNJ benefits who voluntarily quits a job, without good cause, shall render the entire assistance unit ineligible for WFNJ cash assistance benefits for a period of two months. The two month period of ineligibility shall begin on date that the Agency makes the determination that the recipient quit the job. Ibid. Additionally, if a WFNJ recipient voluntarily quits his or her employment without good cause while receiving EA, then the entire household is ineligible for EA for a period of six months. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3).

Page 2

In the present matter, the Agency presented documented evidence from Petitioner's former employer that Petitioner was terminated because she failed to appear for her scheduled assignment and they were unable to reach Petitioner for additional assignments. See Exhibits R-3. During the hearing, the Petitioner acknowledged that she did not want to work every Saturday and that when she first accepted the position, she agreed to work every Saturday. See Initial Decision at 4 and Exhibit R-6. As such, the ALJ concluded, and I agree, that the Petitioner voluntarily quit her job without good cause and the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF and EA benefits.

By way of comment, as the transmittal to the OAL indicates that the Petitioner and her children are sleeping outside, a copy of the Initial and Final Decisions shall be forwarded to the Division of Child Protection and Permanency, f/k/a the Division of Youth and Family Services, to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the Petitioner's children.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency determination is hereby AFFIRMED.

NOV 19 2014

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director