



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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Chris Christie
Governor

Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson
Director

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 2168-15 D.H.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C097698 (MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's reduction of his Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits, and the reduction and termination of his Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits. The Agency reduced Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits, and also reduced and terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits, due to income from employment. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 16, 2015, the Honorable Joseph A. Ascione, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On March 27, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ noted that income Petitioner received from seasonal employment in November and December 2014, and January 2015, had resulted in the reduction and termination of Petitioner's SNAP benefits, and the reduction of WFNJ/TANF benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3. The ALJ further noted that Petitioner had failed to advise the Agency, until the date of the hearing, that he was now unemployed again. See *id.* at 3. The ALJ found that the Agency's reduction/termination of Petitioner's benefits was correct. *Ibid.*; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.8 and N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.5. The ALJ commented that Petitioner's failure to advise the Agency of his change in status deprived the Agency from helping Petitioner to receive benefits in February. See Initial Decision at 3. However, the ALJ noted that Petitioner was without prejudice to reapply for benefits. *Ibid.*

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 accept and 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, is hereby AFFIRMED.

APR - 6 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director