



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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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 6126-15 D.P.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA329856 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits for failure to provide information. Because the Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 27, 2015, the Honorable Richard McGill, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On May 29, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision reversing the Agency determination.

At the hearing, the ALJ found that the facts presented establish that Petitioner had good cause for failing to provide information to the Agency within ten days of the Agency's written request for same. See Initial Decision at 2-3. Specifically, based on Petitioner's credible testimony, the ALJ found that due to the poor wording of the Agency's request for information and Petitioner's mental health issues, Petitioner may not have understood the request. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had good cause for not providing the requested information. See Initial Decision at 3. On that basis, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA application should be reversed. See Initial Decision at 4. Further, Petitioner must now provide to the Agency, within ten days of the receipt of this Final Decision, a letter from A.S. explaining her relationship with Petitioner. Ibid.

Neither party filed exceptions to the Initial Decision.

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, following an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's Initial Decision and 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 REVERSED.

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

JUN 23 2015

Natasha Johnson
Director