



**State of New Jersey**

**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 6349-15 L.F.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA23536 (CUMBERLAND COUNTY BD OF SOC SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits application. The Agency denied Petitioner's benefits application as it contended that Petitioner co-habitated with a significant other, and as such, they would need to apply for WFNJ/GA benefits as a couple. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 17, 2015, the Honorable Bruce M. Gorman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On June 26, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination. The ALJ concluded that the credible evidence in the matter substantiated that Petitioner and the person alleged to be her "common partner" (hereinafter "L.S.") did not reside together as a couple. See Initial Decision at 4. At the conclusion of the plenary hearing, upon order of the ALJ, Petitioner and the Agency's representative immediately went to the home where Petitioner resides with L.S., and the Agency representative conducted an inspection of Petitioner and L.S.'s living space. See *id.* at 3. By letter dated June 18, 2015, the Agency representative reported to the ALJ that neither Petitioner's, nor L.S.'s, personal items were commingled in their respective bedrooms. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-2. Based upon the inspection, the Agency's representative agreed that Petitioner and L.S. were not co-habitating as a couple. See Initial Decision at 3, 4. The ALJ concluded that this report supported Petitioner's testimony, and accordingly, the ALJ ordered that the Agency's action, denying Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits application, be reversed. See *id.* at 4.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

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

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

**JUL 13 2015** *Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Natasha Johnson  
Director