



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

Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson
Director
Tel. (609) 588-2400

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 19344-15 L.G.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C674968 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of his application Emergency Assistance ("EA"), Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF"), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application because his income exceeded the maximum allowable. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was scheduled for January 7, 2015, but was changed to an emergent hearing and rescheduled for December 30, 2015. On that day, the Honorable Kelly J. Kirk, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), attempted to hold a plenary hearing and to take testimony. No documents were admitted into evidence. On the same day, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision dismissing Petitioner's appeal with prejudice.

In the Initial Decision, the ALJ noted that Petitioner and family service workers appeared at the scheduled hearing. See Initial Decision at 2. After a brief discussion of the regulations, Petitioner abandoned the hearing, stating his desire to withdraw. *Ibid.* However, Petitioner declined to sign a withdrawal form. *Ibid.*

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

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, having made an independent evaluation of the record, I hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision in this matter.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is ADOPTED and Petitioner's appeal is hereby DISMISSED with prejudice.

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

JAN 9 8 2018

Natasha Johnson
Director