



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 13534-15 M.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C0746510 (SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's sanction of his Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits, and the imposition of a two-month period of ineligibility of his Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency sanctioned Petitioner's SNAP, and found Petitioner ineligible for WFNJ/TANF benefits for two months, due to an alleged voluntary termination of employment without good cause. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 29, 2015, the Honorable Joseph A. Ascione, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On October 19, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision reversing the Agency's determination. Based upon the evidence presented in the matter, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had good cause to quit his employment due to his wife's medical problems that required Petitioner to provide the childcare needs for his family. See Initial Decision at 6-7; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.11(c); see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.6(a)(9). I agree. Therefore, Petitioner's two-month period of ineligibility of WFNJ/TANF cash assistance shall not be applied, and the sanction of SNAP benefits is rescinded.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by either party.

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

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

OCT 26 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director