



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 14842-15 S.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA462835 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits and Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP and WFNJ/GA benefits as it contended that Petitioner's countable income exceeded the maximum permissible income level for receipt of benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 28, 2015, the Honorable Thomas R. Betancourt, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On October 30, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record reflects that Petitioner previously received SNAP benefits of \$198 per month and WFNJ/GA benefits of \$140 per month. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner has been employed as of July 23, 2015, earning approximately \$2,000 per month. *Ibid*; see also Exhibit R-5. Subsequently, Petitioner reported this employment to the Agency on August 21, 2015, and her benefits were then terminated as of August 31, 2015. *Ibid*. Therefore, the ALJ found Petitioner's gross income exceeded the maximum allowable and she is not eligible for benefits. *Ibid*; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.5(b); see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.3 and 5.5(a)(2); see also Division of Family Development Instruction 14-08-03. Based on an independent review of the record, I agree with the conclusion of the ALJ.

No Exceptions to this 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 following an independent review of the record, 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 hereby ADOPTED and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.

NOV 16 2015

Signed Copy on File

at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson

Director