



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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NATASHA JOHNSON
Assistant Commissioner

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 **02176-24 D.R.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C137451009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits, and the imposition of a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, and imposed a six-month EA ineligibility penalty, contending that she violated shelter rules. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 27, 2024, the Honorable William J. Courtney, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On February 28, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that Petitioner had refused shelter placements on two occasions, and had been terminated from two shelter placements for violating shelter rules by engaging in threatening/disruptive actions and behaviors one of which resulted in a restraining order being placed against her. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also R-1 at 15, 17, 19, 23, 25, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(c)(3). Further, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide any credible good cause reason for such refusals, and violations. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 27. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits, and the imposition of a six-month EA ineligibility penalty, were proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also R-1 at 1-6, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(c)(3). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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 final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.

By way of comment, Petitioner is advised that her six-month EA ineligibility penalty shall run from February 24, 2024 the effective date of the Agency's termination, through August 24, 2024. See Exhibit R-1 at 2.

By way of further comment, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with her current needs, including Social Services for the Homeless.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.



Officially approved final version. March 07, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

