



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 **02309-24 D.T.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C450103004 (CAMDEN-CCBSS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, contending that she failed to comply with her EA service plan ("SP"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 27, 2024, the Honorable Carl V. Buck, III, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic 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 executed an SP, wherein she agreed, among other things, to comply with Senior Citizen United Community Services ("SCUCS") directives to assist SCUCS in its pursuit permanent housing for Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3-6, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a). The ALJ also found, and the record reflects, that Petitioner had failed to comply with her SP, with no good cause credibly shown, by failing to provide documents needed to obtain a housing voucher and proof that she pursued other available housing. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 7-9, and N.J.A.C.-6.6(a). Although Petitioner claimed that she did not know that she was required to supply information to obtain her housing voucher, the ALJ found that her testimony was not credible. See Initial Decision at 4-5. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5-6; see also Exhibit R-1 at 17-20. I agree. Further, as I agree with the ALJ's conclusion, in accordance with regulatory authority set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a), I hereby impose upon Petitioner a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 6.

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 18, 2024, the effective date of the EA termination, through August 18, 2024. See Exhibit R-1 at 18.

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, as outlined above.



Officially approved final version. March 07, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

