

#### STATE OF NEW JERSEY

In the Matter of Tiffany Colon, Judiciary, Passaic Vicinage

CSC Docket No. 2025-1709 OAL Docket No. CSV 05215-25 FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

**ISSUED: AUGUST 13, 2025** 

The appeal of Tiffany Colon, Judiciary Clerk 2, Judiciary, Passaic Vicinage, release at the end of the working test period, effective February 7, 2025, was before Administrative Law Judge Kimberly K. Holmes (ALJ), who rendered her initial decision dismissing the matter on July 3, 2025. No exceptions were filed.

Having considered the record and the ALJ's initial decision, and having made an independent evaluation of the record, the Civil Service Commission, at its meeting on August 13, 2025, affirmed the ALJ's determination to dismiss the appeal.

#### ORDER

The Civil Service Commission finds that the action of the appointing authority in releasing the appellant at the end of the working test period was justified. The Commission therefore upholds that action and dismisses the appeal of Tiffany Colon.

This is the final administrative determination in this matter. Any further review should be pursued in a judicial forum.

DECISION RENDERED BY THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2025

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Chairperson

Civil Service Commission

Inquiries and

Correspondence

Nicholas F. Angiulo

Director

Division of Appeals and Regulatory Affairs

Civil Service Commission

P.O. Box 312

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0312

Attachment



INITIAL DECISION
DISMISSAL

OAL DKT. NO. CSV 05215-25 AGENCY DKT. NO. 2025-1709

IN THE MATTER OF TIFFANY COLON, SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY, PASSAIC VICINAGE.

Tiffany Colon, petitioner, pro se

**Thomas Russo**, Esq., Staff Attorney for respondent, Superior Court of New Jersey, Passaic Vicinage (Administrative Office of the Courts).

Record Closed: July 2, 2025

Decided: July 3, 2025

BEFORE KIMBERLY K. HOLMES, ALJ:

# STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Appellant, Tiffany Colon ("Colon"), appeals from the termination of her employment as a Judiciary Clerk 2 with the New Jersey Judiciary ("respondent") effective February 7, 2025. In the termination letter dated February 7, 2025, respondent stated the basis of this action was because Colon failed to satisfactorily complete her working test period. A copy of Colon's Report on Progress with supporting documentation was also attached to the termination letter sent to her.

# PROCEDURAL HISTORY AND FACTUAL FINDINGS

On March 11, 2025, Colon filed a pro se appeal with the Civil Service Commission (Commission) challenging respondent's release of her employment at the end of her working test period.

On March 26, 2025, the Commission granted Colon's request for a hearing transmitting this case to the Office of Administrative Law as a contested case under the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 to -15, and the act establishing the OAL, N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 to -13, for a hearing under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C. 1:1-1.1 to -21.6.

The respondent was represented by Thomas Russo, Esq., a staff attorney for Counsel's Office of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

I conducted several telephone conferences and directed the parties to exchange discovery. More specifically, the conferences were held on May 5, 2025, and May 29, 2025. Both Colon and Mr. Russo were present for the telephone conferences. During the May 29, 2025, conference, Colon and Mr. Russo agreed to an in-person hearing date of July 2, 2025. Both parties gave the number of witnesses who would appear and agreed to the date when discovery would be completed, that being June 23, 2025.

On May 29, 2025, a Prehearing Order was sent to Colon and Mr. Russo. The contact information for Colon had not changed since the first day she appeared for the May 5, 2025, conference.

On July 2, 2025, Mr. Russo, along with three witnesses appeared for the inperson hearing, ready to proceed. Colon did not appear. My legal assistant reached out to Colon by email and telephone to advise her that the respondent was present. Colon did not respond to the email, nor did she return the call to my judicial assistant.

The OAL received neither notice returned as undeliverable.

To date, the OAL received no explanation for Colon's nonappearance as required under N.J.A.C. 1:1-14.4.

Given the circumstances and the failures of the appellant Tiffany Colon, I FIND that she abandoned her request for a hearing and CONCLUDE that this case should be DISMISSED.

### <u>ORDER</u>

Based upon the foregoing, I **ORDER** that the appeal in this matter be and is hereby **DISMISSED**.

I hereby **FILE** my initial decision with the **CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION** for consideration.

This recommended decision may be adopted, modified, or rejected by the CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, which by law is authorized to make a final decision in this matter. If the Civil Service Commission does not adopt, modify, or reject this decision within forty-five days and unless such time limit is otherwise extended, this recommended decision shall become a final decision in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10.

Within thirteen days from the date on which this recommended decision was mailed to the parties, any party may file written exceptions with the DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF APPEALS AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS, UNIT H, CIVIL SERVICE

COMMISSION, 44 South Clinton Avenue, PO Box 312, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0312, marked "Attention: Exceptions." A copy of any exceptions must be sent to the judge and to the other parties.

July 3, 2025	Fonborey K. Hems
DATE	KIMBERLY K. HOLMES, ALJ
Date Received at Agency:	July 3, 2025
Date Mailed to Parties: KKH/lsr	July 3, 2025