



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

In the Matter of William Johnson,
Irvington Township, Department of
Public Works

CSC Docket No. 2022-1225
OAL Docket No. CSV 04549-25

**FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION
OF THE
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**

ISSUED: August 18, 2026

The appeal of William Johnson, a Sewer Repairer Supervisor, with the Township of Irvington, Department of Public Works, of his removal, effective November 10, 2010, was before by Administrative Law Judge Leslie Z. Celentano (ALJ), who rendered her initial decision on July 2, 2026. 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 12, 2026, accepted the recommendation as contained in the attached ALJ's initial decision to dismiss the appeal for the appellant's failure to appear.

ORDER

The Civil Service Commission dismisses the appeal of William Johnson with prejudice.

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 12th DAY OF August, 2026**

Mary Cruz
Acting Chairperson
Civil Service Commission

Inquiries
and
Correspondence

Shannon L. Dalton
Director
Division of Appeals and Regulatory Affairs
Civil Service Commission
P.O. Box 312
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0312

Attachment



State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

INITIAL DECISION

OAL DKT. NO. CSV 04549-25

AGENCY DKT. NO. 2022-1225

ON REMAND

OAL DKT. NO. CSV 11107-22

**IN THE MATTER OF WILLIAM JOHNSON,
IRVINGTON TOWNSHIP, DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC WORKS.**

William Johnson, appellant, pro se

Phillip H. Gertner, Esq., for respondent (Ruderman & Roth, LLC, attorneys)

Record Closed: July 2, 2026

Decided: July 2, 2026

BEFORE, **LESLIE Z. CELENTANO**, ALJ (Ret., on recall):

STATEMENT OF THE CASE AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Appellant appealed his removal by respondent effective November 10, 2021. The agency transmitted the matter to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and it was assigned to Honorable Jude Tiscornia who rendered an initial decision on July 22, 2022 recommending that the settlement reached by the parties be approved. The Civil Service Commission (Commission) thereafter remanded the matter to the OAL for further

proceedings, having determined that some of the terms of the settlement did not comply with civil service law and rules.

Following the remand, Judge Tiscornia scheduled a prehearing conference for June 7, 2024, and on that date, neither appellant nor his representative appeared. On June 14, 2024 a Failure to Appear notice was returned to the Commission for final decision. Thereafter, appellant's attorney at the time requested reinstatement of the appeal, indicating that the email notice of the pre-hearing went to his spam inbox, and so he did not receive it. Irvington did not file an objection to this request. The request to reinstate the appeal was granted and the matter returned to the OAL on March 7, 2025 and assigned to the undersigned.

A telephone prehearing conference was scheduled for April 16, 2025. That date was rescheduled, as no one appeared on the call for respondent. The OAL was alerted that no attorney had yet been assigned for Irvington. The telephone conference was then rescheduled for May 12, 2025, and adjourned again, pending the assignment of an attorney for Irvington.

On June 10, 2025, the telephone conference was held and the attorneys agreed to amend the proposed Settlement Agreement so that it complied with civil service laws and rules.

On January 16, 2026, a follow up telephone conference was held and appellant's attorney indicated he had not heard from his client despite significant efforts to reach him, and requested the opportunity to file a Motion to be Relieved as counsel.

On April 14, 2026, appellant's attorney filed the Motion to be Relieved as counsel. The certification accompanying his motion provided as follows:

1. I am an attorney with the law firm of Forman, Cardonsky & Tsinman, and have been handling the above entitled matter.
2. On or around September 2021, this law firm was retained by Mr. Johnson in regard to the disciplinary actions of his employment with the Township of Irvington.

3. He was untimely terminated on or around October 2021 for failure to adhere to the Township of Irvington's policies and procedures by failing to report to work and failure to obtain authorization from his supervisor on or about August 26, 2021 and August 27, 2021.
4. On or around June 2022, this matter was tentatively resolved. There was an executed agreement between the parties; however, the City of Irvington advised that there were two minor provisions that were unlawful that needed to be changed.
5. After repeated attempts to contact Mr. Johnson we were able to reach him and schedule a meeting in our office.
6. On August 8, 2025, Mr. Johnson came into the office to review the revised settlement agreement. He advised that he was going to go over the revised settlement agreement over the weekend.
7. However, to date, we have not heard back from him.
8. On September 24, 2025, this law firm mailed correspondence to Mr. Johnson at 67 Cummings Street, Irvington NJ, advising him to contact this firm. We also left numerous voice messages for him. Ex A.
9. On or about October 2025, this firm received the letter back from the post office as "return to sender attempted· not known- unable to forward" Ex B
10. On October 24, 2025, this firm requested a private agency to locate Mr Johnson. Ex C
11. On November 5, 2025, the agency was able to get in contact with Mr Johnson who advised that he was out of town and to send any correspondence to 198 Haywood Ave, Orange, NJ. Please note that the phone number that the agency contacted is the same number that this office has for Mr. Johnson. Ex D
12. On November 11, 2025, this office mailed correspondence via certified and regular mail to Mr Johnson's new address advising to contact this firm. Ex E (the regular mail was not returned)
13. To date, Mr Johnson has not contacted this office nor answered any of our letters and phone messages.
14. As such I am requesting that the court relieve me and my law firm of counsel.
15. I hereby certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are false, I am subject to punishment.

The motion to be relieved as counsel was granted.

On May 20, 2026, a notice was sent to appellant, which was also emailed to him. The letter was not returned by the USPS. The correspondence advised appellant that his attorney had withdrawn as counsel and that he should contact the undersigned by June 22, 2026, if he wished to continue with his appeal.

On May 29, 2006, the undersigned received a message from appellant indicating that he wanted to proceed with his case but needed time to retain an attorney. The matter was scheduled for a telephone conference on June 29, 2026. The notice was sent to all of the addresses on file for appellant.

On June 29, 2026, appellant failed to appear at the scheduled telephone conference.

Accordingly, as there has been no communication since from appellant, I **FIND** that this matter should be and is hereby **DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE**.

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 2, 2026

DATE



LESLIE Z. CELENTANO, ALJ (Ret., on recall)

Date Received at Agency:

July 2, 2026

Date Mailed to Parties:

July 2, 2026

dr