



State of New Jersey

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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 03213-20 J.L.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C086536015 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. 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 Petitioner had failed to provide proof of required housing searches, and had failed to attend required Substance Abuse Initiative/Behavioral Health Initiative ("SAI/BHI") appointments, in violation of her EA service plan ("SP"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 10, 2020, the Honorable Judith Lieberman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. The record remained open until July 17, 2020, to allow both parties to submit additional documentation and then closed. On August 5, 2020, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits, but not the six-month EA ineligibility penalty.

This office has been advised that the Agency is rescinding its termination of Petitioner's EA benefits, and the imposition of a six-month period of EA ineligibility. Therefore, as Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I find that, as a contested case no longer exists, this matter has now been rendered moot, and as such, I hereby DISMISS Petitioner's appeal.

Accordingly, as no contested case exists in this matter, Petitioner's appeal is hereby DISMISSED.

Officially approved final version.

SEP - 8 2020

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

