



# State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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SARAH ADELMAN  
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

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 **06849-23 G.C.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C074124015 (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 she failed to comply with her EA service plan ("SP") by failing to provide proof of payment of her pro rata share of her monthly housing costs, and for violating shelter rules. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 3, 2023, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

Also on August 3, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner executed an SP, wherein she agreed, among other things, to pay her required share of the monthly motel rental costs and to provide the Agency with proof of such payments each month, and to remain drug and alcohol free while residing at her motel placement. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-2, R-5, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.5(a), -6.6(a). However, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide all proofs of payment of her share of the monthly motel rent, and that by her own admission, she had relapsed and began using drugs again, as substantiated by a police report which indicated that drugs were found in her motel room, resulting in her arrest. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibits P-1 at 10-11, R-6. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had failed to comply with her SP, without good cause, and affirmed the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1. I agree, and further, because I concur with the ALJ's conclusion, I find that the Agency's imposition of a six-month EA ineligibility penalty was also proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a).

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's six-month EA ineligibility penalty shall run from August 2, 2023, the effective date of the Agency's termination, through February 1, 2024. See Exhibit R-1.

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. August 15, 2023

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

