



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

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Lt. Governor

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 **09641-24 J.T.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S650310012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits, and the imposition of a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, and imposed a six-month EA penalty, contending that Petitioner's behavior caused his eviction from subsidized housing, specifically, that Petitioner was being evicted due to his alleged criminal misconduct. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 24, 2024, the Honorable Sarah H. Surgent ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. During the course of the hearing, Petitioner was agitated and argumentative, and stated questions on the record, regarding the ALJ as well as her home address, which led the ALJ to inform the Petitioner that she would report him if he mentioned querying information about her Honor or her home address again during the hearing. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner then hung up from the telephonic hearing and did not call back in to the proceedings. Ibid. On July 25, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, finding that Petitioner had abandoned his appeal, and dismissing the matter with prejudice. Ibid.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, finding that Petitioner abandoned his appeal in this matter, and as such, the Agency's denial of EA benefits, and the imposition of a six-month EA ineligibility penalty, remain in force as issued. Furthermore, I find that, due to Petitioner's abandonment of his fair hearing, he is barred from seeking another fair hearing on this issue and accordingly, I agree with the ALJ that Petitioner's appeal shall therefore dismissed with prejudice.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and Petitioner's appeal is hereby dismissed with prejudice.

Officially approved final version. August 06, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

