



State of New Jersey

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NATASHA JOHNSON  
Director

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 12438-18 J.J.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C411329004 (CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits contending that she failed to comply with her EA service plan ("SP") by not providing required documentation. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 11, 2018, the Honorable Tama B. Hughes, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On October 17, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, Petitioner met with the Agency on June 12, 2018, for a six-month reevaluation for continued receipt of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. At that time, Petitioner was provided with a list of documents needed by the Agency to complete the reevaluation, and she executed an SP, wherein she agreed to take certain actions and to attend all scheduled appointments. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1 at 7, 8. Petitioner was given until June 18, 2018, to provide the requested documentation, and a meeting with the Agency was set up for that date to submit said documentation. *Ibid.* On June 18, 2018, after having rescheduled her meeting with the Agency to a later time slot, Petitioner did not appear for the meeting and did not provide the requested documentation. See Initial Decision at 2. As a result, the Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits effective June 30, 2018, for failure to provide necessary documentation, and for failing to keep her appointment, in violation of her SP. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2-5. On July 19, 2018, over two weeks later, Petitioner arrived at the Agency, but did not have any of the required documentation. See Initial Decision at 3. The Agency advised her that she had until the end of July to comply. *Ibid.* Petitioner testified that she had provided some documentation, and that she was waiting on a MED-1 form before providing the Agency with the remaining documentation; however, she ultimately did not qualify for a MED-1, and did not provide all of the requested documentation. *Ibid.* After weighing the credibility of the witnesses and the evidence presented, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner failed to provide necessary documentation, and failed to comply with her SP, without good cause, and that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2-5, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the 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, because I concur with the ALJ's finding that Petitioner failed to comply with her SP, without good cause, I hereby impose upon her a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also



N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a). Petitioner's six-month EA ineligibility penalty shall begin to run as of the effective date of the Agency's denial, June 30, 2018, through December 30, 2018. See Exhibit R 1 at 2 3.

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.

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Natasha Johnson

Director

