



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 15532-17 S.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C111521003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. 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 voluntarily quit employment. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 27, 2017, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 7, 2017, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that in August 2017, the Agency received notice that Petitioner's jobs, with two different employers, were terminated. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 14, 15. In the most recent job, Petitioner's employment was terminated on July 28, 2017, for job abandonment when Petitioner did not call or show up for work. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 15. Based on the notifications concerning Petitioner's termination from employment, the Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, effective September 25, 2017, and imposed a six-month EA ineligibility penalty. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 10-11. The ALJ concurred, finding that Petitioner voluntarily quit employment without good cause. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3). Therefore, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits, and the imposition of a six-month EA ineligibility penalty, was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 10-11, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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, Petitioner's six-month EA ineligibility penalty shall run from September 25, 2017, the effective date of the Agency's termination of EA benefits, through March 24, 2018.

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.



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Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version.

JAN 25 2018

Natasha Johnson

Director

