



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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Commissioner

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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 **01091-22 C.L.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S632479012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's November 20, 2021, 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 the six-month period of EA ineligibility, contending that Petitioner had violated motel rules. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. A hearing date was initially scheduled for December 17, 2021, but was adjourned at the Agency's request due to witness availability. See Initial Decision at 2. The matter was rescheduled for January 18, 2022, but Petitioner failed to appear for the telephonic hearing. Ibid. The matter was then rescheduled, under a different OAL docket number, to be heard on January 28, 2022, as an emergent case. Ibid. Petitioner requested an adjournment of that hearing date in order to seek legal representation. Ibid. The matter was again rescheduled, for February 3, 2022, but Petitioner failed to appear. Ibid. The case was then rescheduled for February 18, 2022, before the Honorable Jeffrey R. Wilson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), under the present OAL docket number, and again as an emergent case. Ibid. Petitioner was given notice of the date and time of the telephonic hearing on that date, but did not appear for the hearing, nor did Petitioner contact the OAL to explain her failure to appear for the hearing. Ibid. Accordingly, on February 18, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, dismissing Petitioner's appeal.

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 find that Petitioner has abandoned her appeal in this matter and, therefore, I affirm the Agency's EA termination in this matter, and the imposition of a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits.

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



Officially approved final version.

March 14, 2022

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

