



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 **01059-22 T.S.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C098159020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION 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 was terminated from hotel/shelter placements for violating hotel/shelter rules, thereby causing her own homelessness. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 16, 2022, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

Also on February 16, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that Petitioner had been terminated from two Agency housing placements due to disruptive behaviors which resulted in her termination from said hotel and shelter placements. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 6, 7, 15. Although Petitioner denied any such hotel/shelter violations, based on the evidence and testimony presented, the ALJ found that Petitioner had been terminated from said placements due to her disorderly actions, and had thereby caused her own homelessness. *Ibid.* Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner EA benefits, and the imposition of a six-month EA ineligibility penalty, were proper and must stand. *Id.* at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-5, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(c)(3). I agree. Additionally, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner's six-month EA ineligibility penalty shall run from February 1, 2022, to August 1, 2022. See Initial Decision at 4. I also agree.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by Petitioner on February 17, 2022.

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, 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.



By way of further comment, I have reviewed Petitioner's Exceptions, and I find that the arguments made therein do not alter my decision in this matter.

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

Officially approved final version. February 22, 2022

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

