



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 09993-25 G.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C219235009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM 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"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 12, 2025, the Honorable Patrice E. Hobbs, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On June 12, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, following an independent review of the record, I hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency's determinations, based on the discussion below.

The purpose of EA is to meet the emergent needs of public assistance recipients, such as imminent homelessness, so that the recipient can participate in work activities without disruption and continue on a path to self-sufficiency. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a). In order to maintain eligibility for EA benefits, the recipient must take reasonable steps to resolve his or her emergent situation. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a). Reasonable steps include, but are not limited to, the EA benefits recipient participating in the development of, and complying with, a written and signed SP. *Ibid.* Failure to comply with the requirements identified in the SP, without good cause, shall result in the termination of EA benefits and a six-month period of EA ineligibility. *Ibid.*

Here, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that Petitioner applied for EA benefits on October 10, 2024, and, on that date, executed an SP wherein she agreed, among other things, to submit proof of employment searches and to provide proof she was current with her 30% rental contribution pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5) and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a). See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2. Specifically, Petitioner failed to respond to requests from the Agency to provide proof of rental receipts for her portion of her rental contribution, as well as proof of employment searches, following the Agency's emailed requests on October 23, 2024, December 5, 2024, December 18, 2024, and January 10, 2025. *Ibid.* The Agency sent Petitioner a termination notice on February 4, 2025, indicating that her EA would be terminated effective February 28, 2025. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. Petitioner never provided the Agency with her rent receipts or employment searches and further failed to inform the Agency that she began employment during January 2025. See Initial Decision at 3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency had met its burden of proving that Petitioner was not in compliance with her EA SP, and therefore, the termination of her EA benefits was appropriate. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a). I agree. Further, the ALJ



found the Agency's imposition of a six-month period of ineligibility regarding Petitioner's receipt of EA benefits was also proper, and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a). Again, I agree.

By way of comment, Petitioner's six-month EA ineligibility period shall run from February 28, 2025, the effective date of the Agency's denial, through August 28, 2025. See Exhibit R-1.

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, as outlined above.

Officially approved final version. June 16, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

