



State of New Jersey

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 16758-15 D.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C105972 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of shelter placement. 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 November 20, 2015, the Honorable John S. Kennedy, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 3, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that Petitioner failed to comply with her SP, without good cause, by failing to attend scheduled housing workshops and by failing to conduct weekly housing searches, as set out in her SP. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 12. Accordingly, the ALJ found that the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits.

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 in this matter.

Additionally, I find that because Petitioner failed to comply with her SP, she is ineligible for EA benefits for a period of six months. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a).

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

Signed Copy on File
JAN - 4 2016 at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director