



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 3986-15 J.I.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C063192 (MORRIS CO. OFFICE OF TEMP ASSISTANCE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because she violated her EA service plan ("SP"), by consistently failing to follow her shelter/motel rules. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was originally scheduled for May 7, 2015, but was rescheduled for May 19, 2015, because Petitioner did not appear competent to prosecute her appeal on that date. See Initial Decision at 2. On May 19, 2015, the Honorable Joan Bedrin Murray, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On June 11, 2015, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that despite the Agency's continued long-term, dedicated efforts to assist Petitioner with her housing, mental health and substance abuse issues, she persisted in violating the terms of her SP. See Initial Decision at 2-5. Accordingly, the ALJ found that the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits. *Ibid.* Additionally, the record indicates that Petitioner has received 24 months of EA benefits, thereby exhausting, and exceeding, the 12 month lifetime limit of EA benefits, as well as the the six month extreme hardship extension, available to a Work First New Jersey/General Assistance recipient. *Ibid.*; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4.

Further, because Petitioner has failed to comply with her SP, she is ineligible for EA benefits for a period of six months. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3)(ix), -6.3(c).

No Exceptions to this Initial Decision were filed.

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.

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

JUL - 2 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director