



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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Director
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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 4103-15 L.L.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C072720 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of her Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits and the sanctioning of her Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") cash assistance for failure to comply with her service plan and her work activities, respectively. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 29, 2015, the Honorable W. Todd Miller, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On June 3, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency determination. The ALJ concluded that Petitioner violated her service plan by missing her housing appointments on January 20 and 22, 2015. See Initial Decision at 4. In addition, the ALJ affirmed the Agency's sanction imposed on Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits for failure to comply with her work activities. *Id.* at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 8. Finally, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had found employment with income estimated at \$2,600.00 per month and, as a consequence, any sanction imposed would not have a substantial impact on her housing. See Initial Decision at 4.

No exceptions were filed to the Initial Decision.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record for this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision, and having made an independent evaluation of the record, I accept and adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as contained in the Initial Decision.

As Petitioner has been found to have violated the terms of her service plan, she shall be ineligible for EA benefits for a six-month period. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3)(ix).

By way of comment, it appears that in addition to Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF and EA benefits, that the termination of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits was also a transmitted issue which was not addressed by the ALJ in this matter. If Petitioner's SNAP benefits still remain a contested issue, Petitioner is free to request a Fair Hearing on that issue alone.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in the action is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency action is AFFIRMED.

JUL - 2 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director