



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 3945-15 L.R.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA473874 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's termination of her Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of shelter housing. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits as she failed to comply with the rules of the shelter thereby failing to comply with her service plan. Because the Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On April 16, 2015, the Honorable Michael Antoniewicz, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence.

On April 30, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits. The ALJ found that Petitioner's testimony, supported by the exhibits entered into the record, established that Petitioner had failed to comply with her April 26, 2013, service plan, specifically, Petitioner failed to submit her Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability ("SSI/SSD") update. See Initial Decision at 2. The record further reveals that Petitioner admitted she failed to submit the requested updates. *Ibid.* The ALJ concluded that Petitioner signed the service plan; had knowledge of the shelter rules; and, failed to comply with both, thereby the Agency's termination of EA was appropriate. *Id.* at 3.

Petitioner filed exceptions to the Initial Decision on May 13, 2015.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the Initial Decision and having made an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter, and further impose a six-month penalty as required by the regulations.

By way of comment, I do not find Petitioner's arguments in the Exceptions to have any merit.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is ADOPTED and the Agency's action in this matter is hereby AFFIRMED, and I further ORDER a six-month penalty be imposed.

MAY 26 2015

Signed Copy on File

at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson

Director