



## State of New Jersey

### DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development  
P.O. Box 716  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Chris Christie  
*Governor*

Kim Guadagno  
*Lt. Governor*

Elizabeth Connolly  
*Acting Commissioner*

Natasha Johnson  
*Director*  
Tel. (609) 588-2400

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 6405-15 M.L.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C158502 (MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"). The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA/TRA benefits because she violated her EA service plan ("SP") by failing to perform the housing and employment searches required by her SP. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 23, 2015, the Honorable Joseph A. Ascione, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On June 25, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that Petitioner was in control of complying with her SP and thereby her continued eligibility for EA/TRA benefits. See Initial Decision 4. The ALJ further found that Petitioner did not do what she was required to do pursuant to her SP, as she did not engage in timely housing searches nor did she provide the Agency with verifiable employment searches, and Petitioner could not show she was qualified for a waiver from the requirements of her SP. *Id.* at 4-5. Finally, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner did not show good cause for her failure to comply with her SP. *Id.* at 5. Accordingly, the ALJ found that the Agency had properly terminated Petitioner's EA/TRA benefits. *Ibid.*

No Exceptions to the 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 the matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in the matter.

As I concur with the ALJ that 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. 10:90-6.6(a).

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

*Signed Copy on File*

at DFD, BARA

**JUL 13 2015**

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Natasha Johnson

Director