



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 15911-15 M.R.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA167401 (MORRIS CO. OFFICE OF TEMP ASSISTANCE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of her Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"), and the imposition of a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, and imposed a six-month EA penalty because it determined that she had failed to comply with the terms of her EA service plan ("SP"), without good cause. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 17, 2015, the Honorable Michael Antoniewicz, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On November 24, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record shows that under the terms of Petitioner's SP and Stipulation of Settlement, she was required to comply with her housing rules, including a no guest policy without prior notice. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-3 and R-4. The record also shows that Petitioner had allowed another individual to live with her, without prior notice. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-5. Additionally, Petitioner's landlord delivered an eviction notice to Petitioner, detailing numerous lease violations, and complaints from her neighbors regarding her behavior. See Exhibit R-7. The ALJ found that Petitioner had knowledge of her housing rules when she signed her SP, but failed to comply with those rules, without good cause. See Initial Decision at 3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits. *Ibid.*; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a).

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 this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

Additionally, because Petitioner failed to comply with the terms of her SP, without good cause, I find that the Agency properly imposed a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits, effective September 1, 2015. See Exhibit R-2 at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a).

By way of comment, as it appears from the record that Petitioner may be a victim of domestic violence, the Agency is to refer Petitioner for a Family Violence Option risk assessment, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-20.1 et seq.

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

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

JAN - 4 2016

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Natasha Johnson  
Director