



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 7415-15 S.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C083461 (PASSAIC COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of an extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits under the Housing Hardship Extension ("HHE") pilot. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits under HHE because she incurred a sanction within the 12 months prior to applying for HHE. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 2, 2015, the Honorable Irene Jones, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On June 4, 2015, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to comply with her Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ") work site's employment policies, by consistent lateness and absences, without good cause, and that the Agency had therefore, properly imposed a sanction, effective April 1, 2015. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also Exhibit R-8 at 1, 2. Accordingly, the ALJ found that Petitioner was not eligible for an extension of EA benefits under HHE because she had incurred a sanction within the 12 months prior to applying for HHE. See *id.* at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.9(c)(1)(which sets a bright-line rule that a sanction within the 12-month period prior to applying for an extension under HHE disqualifies a WFNJ/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families recipient from eligibility for the HHE pilot).

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.

In light of the previous Initial Decision and Order of March 13, 2015, regarding DCP&P involvement, a copy of the Initial Decision and this Final Decision will be forwarded to DCP&P.

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

JUN 19 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director