



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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NATASHA JOHNSON
Assistant Commissioner

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 **11836-24 I.R.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C232898009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits, and the imposition of a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, and imposed a six-month EA ineligibility penalty, contending that she voluntarily quit employment when she was discharged from her job due to theft, thereby causing her own homelessness. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 28, 2024, the Honorable Daniel J. Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On August 30, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that Petitioner had been terminated from her employment for cause, specifically, due to theft. See Initial Decision at 1-2; see also "Unemployment Insurance Benefits "Notice of Determination." Petitioner did not dispute that she had been terminated for such cause. See Initial Decision at 1-2. Based on the testimony and evidence presented, the ALJ found that Petitioner had been terminated from her employment for cause, thereby causing her own homelessness, and as such, concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner, and the imposition of a six-month EA ineligibility penalty were proper and must stand. Id. at 5-7; see also "Notification Form," and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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.

By way of comment, Petitioner's six-month EA ineligibility penalty shall run from June 26, 2024, the effective date of the Agency's denial, through December 25, 2024. See "Notification Form."

By way of further comment, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with her current needs, including Social Services for the Homeless.

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



Officially approved final version. September 19, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

