



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

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 **11819-24 L.F.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C053064018 (SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, contending that she failed to comply with her EA service plan ("SP"), thereby causing her own homelessness. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 30, 2024, the Honorable Jeffrey N. Rabin, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On September 3, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner had executed an SP, wherein she agreed, among other things, to attend all mandatory Substance Abuse Initiative/Behavioral Health Initiative ("SAI/BHI") program appointments, to provide proof of weekly housing searches, to apply for Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits and provide proof of such application, and to attend all scheduled appointments with her caseworker. See Initial Decision at 5; see also Exhibit D1-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a). The ALJ found that, despite the Agency's continued attempts to assist Petitioner in complying the terms of her SP, Petitioner had failed to comply with her SP, with no good cause credibly shown, by failing to attend SAI/BHI program appointments, and failing to comply with the other SP requirements set forth above. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also Exhibits F-1, G1-3, I1-3, J1-3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand, and accordingly, the ALJ imposed a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits upon Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 6-7; see also Exhibit C1-5, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a). 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 is advised that her six-month EA ineligibility penalty shall run from July 1, 2024, the effective date of the termination, through January 1, 2024. See Exhibit C2.

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, as outlined above.



Officially approved final version. September 19, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

