



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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NATASHA JOHNSON
Director

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 07973-19 K.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C203144009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of continued shelter placement and prospective security deposit, 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 ineligibility penalty, due to Petitioner's multiple absences from her shelter placement. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 10, 2019, the Honorable Andrew Baron, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was held open until July 23, 2019, and then closed on that date.

On August 16, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination. Here, based on Petitioner's particular circumstances, specifically, the fact that she has secured affordable Section 8 housing, and is thereby moving toward self-sufficiency, I concur with the ALJ's conclusion that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits, and the imposition of a six-month EA ineligibility penalty, were improper and must be reversed. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c).

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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.

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

Officially approved final version.

SEP 19 2019

Natasha Johnson
Director

