



## State of New Jersey

**PHILIP D. MURPHY**  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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**CAROLE JOHNSON**  
*Commissioner*

**SHEILA Y. OLIVER**  
*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 01895-20 T.G.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C058563008 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits, 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, contending that she had violated her EA service plan. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for March 6, 2020, but was adjourned with the consent of both parties. The case was rescheduled for April 3, 2020, but again adjourned due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The matter was then rescheduled for a telephonic hearing on July 10, 2020, but was adjourned because Petitioner failed to dial in for the hearing. The next rescheduled date of August 7, 2020, was again postponed at the request of Petitioner, so that she might seek legal counsel. Finally, on September 4, 2020, the Honorable Elaine B. Frick, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On September 20, 2020, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits, and the imposition of a six-month period of EA ineligibility.

This office has been advised that the Agency is rescinding its termination of Petitioner's EA benefits, and its imposition of a six-month EA ineligibility penalty. Therefore, as Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I hereby ORDER and DIRECT the Agency to provide Petitioner with EA benefits. Further, I find that this matter has now been rendered moot, and therefore, DISMISS Petitioner's appeal.

Accordingly, Petitioner's appeal now being deemed moot, the matter is hereby DISMISSED.

SEP 29 2020

Officially approved final version.

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

