



## State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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SARAH ADELMAN  
*Commissioner*

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*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 **06931-25 C.R.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C059050005 (CAPE MAY COUNTY BD. 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 had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, and did not qualify for any further extension of EA benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 25, 2025, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents, and the record was closed. On April 28, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that Petitioner has received her lifetime limit of EA benefits and does not currently qualify for any further extension of any kind. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also Exhibit R-1 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (c). From March 2024, through March 2025, Petitioner received twelve months of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. The Agency provided Petitioner with the EA hardship application; however, the MED-1 form submitted by Petitioner's physician is an outdated form which is no longer accepted by the Agency, and the information submitted on same does not establish a permanent disability as required. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1. The Agency did fax the correct MED-1 form to Petitioner's physician on April 21, 2025, requesting that it be completed, however, as of the date of the hearing, the correct MED-1 form had not been submitted to the Agency by Petitioner's physician. See Initial Decision at 2-3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand, and that she is ineligible for an extension of EA benefits at this time. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b)-(d). 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, should Petitioner obtain a current, complete MED-1 form, she is without prejudice to reapply for an extension of EA benefits.

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.



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Officially approved final version. May 07, 2025

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

