



## 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 **00165-25 J.N.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C094448013 (MONMOUTH 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 due to violation of shelter rules. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 7, 2025, the Honorable Mary Ann Bogan, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On March 26, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development ("DFD"), Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency's determination, based on the discussion below.

EA benefits shall not be provided for a period of six months to adult recipients who are terminated from an EA placement when the termination is the result of the recipient's actions, without good cause, which may include, but are not limited to, "[t]hreatening and/or disruptive behavior that affects the operations of the shelter or the safety of other residents." See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(c), (3).

Here, the record reflects that Petitioner applied for EA benefits, and signed an EA service plan ("SP"), wherein he agreed, among other things, to comply with all rules and regulations of his housing placements. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-2, R-3. The ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that Petitioner's EA benefits were terminated for violating shelter rules by engaging in threatening/disruptive actions. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-4. Further, Petitioner was issued a six-month EA ineligibility penalty based upon a termination without good cause. Ibid. The record reflects that the owner and manager of the rooming house placement, as well as the owner and manager of the motel placement, provided testimony as to Petitioner's behavior, which the ALJ found credible. See Initial Decision at 3-4. Specifically, the rooming home owner noted that Petitioner violated the placement safety rules by padlocking his room door, acting out, and conducting himself in a manner that concerned other residents and their safety. Ibid. Additionally, the motel owner testified that Petitioner's behavior made residents fearful, specifically regarding Petitioner's behavior around children. Ibid. Although Petitioner disputed the claims that he had engaged in disruptive and threatening behavior, the ALJ found that Petitioner's testimony was not credible. See Initial Decision at 4. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had engaged in disruptive behaviors at his EA housing placements, and therefore, the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits, and the imposition of a six-month period of EA ineligibility, were proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(c)(3). I agree.



By way of comment, as Petitioner has received continued benefits pending the fair hearing, Petitioner's six-month EA ineligibility penalty shall begin to run upon issuance of this Final Agency Decision.

By way of further comment, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with his 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. May 14, 2025

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

