



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 **02148-25 J.O.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S660215012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits due to a prior termination of said benefits, and the imposition of a six-month EA ineligibility penalty, for violating his SP. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 5, 2025, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On February 5, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that on February 4, 2024, Petitioner executed an SP, wherein he agreed, among other things, to conduct housing searches, and to submit housing search logs to the Agency every month, as proof of such searches. See Initial Decision at 1-2; see also Exhibits R-2, R-6. The ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to comply with said SP, and consequently, by notice dated August 12, 2024, Petitioner's EA benefits were terminated, and a six-month EA ineligibility penalty was imposed, due to expire on March 12, 2025. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-1 through R-10, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a). The record reflects that Petitioner prematurely reapplied for EA benefits in January 2025, prior to the expiration of his previously imposed six-month EA ineligibility penalty. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-5, R-6, R-7. Petitioner claimed that he had been submitting the housing search documents to the wrong Agency email address, and he was given until February 5, 2025, to provide evidence of such claim, but failed to do so. See Initial Decision at 3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's previous termination of Petitioner's EA benefits, and the imposition of a six-month EA ineligibility penalty, were proper, and according, further concluded that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's EA benefits application was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3-4. 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 may reapply for EA benefits after his six-month EA ineligibility penalty has expired on March 12, 2025. See Exhibit R-7.

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.



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Officially approved final version. February 13, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

