



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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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 11564-24 K.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C420534004 (CAMDEN-CCBSS)

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 violated shelter placement rules. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. Following a pre-hearing conference on October 17, 2024, a hearing was scheduled. On October 31, 2024, the Honorable Kimberley M. Wilson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record remained open through the end of November 8, 2024, to allow for the submission of additional evidence, however, no submissions were received and the record closed on November 18, 2024. On December 9, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, Petitioner applied for EA for herself, and her two minor children, on April 5, 2024, and was placed, temporarily, by the Agency at a motel until space became available at a shelter. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1. On April 29, 2024, Petitioner executed an EA service plan ("SP"), wherein she agreed to comply with shelter rules, among other criteria. See Initial Decision at 7; see also Exhibit R-1 at 17. On April 30, 2024, Petitioner and her children were moved to a shelter where Petitioner signed documents agreeing that she would complete daily chores, keep common areas clean, and treat other residents with respect. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 11, 13, 16. Thereafter, the shelter documented various grievances involving Petitioner for not completing assigned chores on May 8, May 11, and May 15, 2024. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-2. Additionally, on May 21, 2024, Petitioner refused to clean the shelter kitchen after using it to prepare food. Ibid. Following a request from the shelter, on July 26, 2024, Petitioner was discharged from the shelter for failing to abide by the shelter rules after a verbal altercation with shelter staff that was threatening and disruptive. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1, 7-8. On that same date, the Agency sent Petitioner a Notification Form advising that her EA benefits would be terminated effective August 26, 2024, for failure to follow shelter rules, and that Petitioner would be ineligible to receive EA benefits for a period of six months. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2-5.

Although Petitioner disputed said shelter rule violation allegations, the ALJ found that Petitioner's claims were not credible, and not substantiated by any evidentiary documentation. See Initial Decision at 8-9. As to failing repeatedly to complete her assigned chores, Petitioner does not dispute this allegation, yet argued that, due to her MED-1 form she should be exempted from completing chores, however, Petitioner never submitted her MED-1 form nor any request for chore accommodations. Id. at 10. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ determined that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits, and the imposition of a six-month EA ineligibility penalty, were proper and must stand. Id. at 11; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(c)(3). 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, for clarification, in instances such as this, where violations of shelter rules are at issue, it is the type of violation which is controlling, not the SP. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(c) versus 10:90-6.3(e).

By way of further comment, Petitioner is advised that her six-month EA ineligibility penalty shall begin from the date of issuance of this Final Agency Decision.

Also by way of 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.

Officially approved final version. February 05, 2025

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

