



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 16371-25 K.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C139183008 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits, and the imposition of a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits, due to a voluntary cessation of employment. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for EA benefits, and imposed a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits due to her voluntary quit. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 25, 2025 the Honorable Rebecca C. Lafferty, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On September 26, 2025 the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations.

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 hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency's determinations, based on the discussion below.

N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.15, in pertinent part states, "An adult applicant for [Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ")] shall not be eligible for benefits when the applicant's eligibility is the result of a voluntary cessation of employment, without good cause, including situations in which an applicant has been discharged from employment due to an action or inaction on his or her part in violation of the employer's written rules or policies, or lawful job related instructions within 90 days prior to the date of application. The applicant shall be ineligible for assistance for a period of 90 days beginning with the date of quit."

N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3) states, in pertinent part, that EA benefits shall not be provided for a period of six months "when an actual or imminent state of homelessness exists as a direct result of the voluntary cessation of employment by the adult member without good cause."

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits, on behalf of herself and her two minor children, and that, due to Petitioner's voluntary cessation of employment on August 5, 2025, WFNJ/TANF benefits are currently only being paid on behalf of her two minor children as Petitioner is serving a three-month penalty for voluntarily leaving her employer without good cause. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner applied for EA benefits on September 19, 2025, and was denied benefits by the Agency on that same date. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 6-9. Petitioner had advised the Agency that she had quit her job in order to become income eligible for benefits and therefore, Petitioner's EA application was denied for voluntarily leaving her employer without good cause. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2-5, 15. Further, the Agency imposed



a six-month EA ineligibility penalty for receipt of EA benefits as Petitioner caused her own homelessness without good cause. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3).

The ALJ in this matter concluded that, in accordance with applicable regulatory authority, due to the voluntary cessation of employment, the Agency's September 19, 2025 denial of EA benefits to Petitioner, and the imposition of a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits, were proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2-5, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3). I agree.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED, as outlined above.

Officially approved final version.

October 09, 2025

Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

