



## State of New Jersey

### DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development  
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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 20277-15 C.V.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C191982 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of her Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"). The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because it determined that she had violated the terms of her EA service plan ("SP"), without good cause, and imposed a six-month EA penalty. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 23, 2015, the Honorable John P. Scollo, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On December 24, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record shows that under the terms of Petitioner's SP, she was required to participate in an educational program. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-2. The record also shows that Petitioner failed to participate in the educational program, and provided no proof to support her claim that she was medically unable to participate. See Initial Decision at 3. The ALJ found that Petitioner failed to comply with the terms of her SP, without good cause. *Id.* at 5. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded, and I agree, that the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, and imposed a six-month EA penalty, effective November 19, 2015. *Ibid.*; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a).

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the 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 in this matter.

By way of comment, the record also shows that Petitioner was not eligible for EA benefits at the time the Agency terminated her EA benefits because she was not a Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ") cash recipient. See Exhibit R-1 at 2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2 (stating that only WFNJ cash recipients and Supplemental Security Income recipients are eligible for EA benefits).

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.

**JAN 11 2016**

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Natasha Johnson  
Director