



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 19935-15 S.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C091094 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits contending that she incurred a sanction, for failing to comply with her required Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ") work activity, and because she had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extensions. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 17, 2015, the Honorable Laura Sanders, Acting Director and Chief Administrative Law Judge ("CALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 18, 2015, the CALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record shows that Petitioner is a WFNJ/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF"), who has received 29 months of EA benefits. The CALJ found that the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, when it closed her WFNJ/TANF case, due to her failure to correct a sanction she incurred. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.13(e). Additionally, although it appears from the record that Petitioner has come into compliance with her work activity, and her WFNJ/TANF benefits may have been restored, the CALJ found that Petitioner has exhausted her 12-month lifetime limit of EA benefits, and there is no program available to Petitioner for an extension of her EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2, 3, 4.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the CALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, I concur with the CALJ's final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

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

Signed Copy on File

at DFD, BARA

DEC 28 2015

Natasha Johnson

Director