



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 12235-14 T.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C178874 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of her Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because she failed to comply with her service plan. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 19, 2014, the Honorable Caridad F. Rigo, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On December 10, 2014, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency determination.

No exceptions were filed to the Initial Decision.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record for this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision, and hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency's determination.

The purpose of EA is to meet the needs of public assistance recipients, such as imminent homelessness, so that the recipient can participate in work related activities without disruption in order to continue on the path to self-sufficiency. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a). In order to maintain eligibility for EA benefits, the recipient must take reasonable steps to resolve the emergent situation. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a). Reasonable steps include, but are not limited to, the recipient participating in the creation of, and complying with, a service plan. *Ibid.* If a recipient fails to comply with the service plan, then the recipient is ineligible for EA benefits for a period of six months. *Ibid.*

The record indicates Petitioner entered into a service plan that required her to pay a portion of her rent and provide receipts for those rent payments to the Agency. See, Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2 at 1. Additionally, Petitioner was required to produce receipts for furniture vouchers and submit ten job searches per week. Ibid. However, Petitioner has not paid her share of the rent to this point, has not provided furniture vouchers for the items allegedly purchased, and has not provided a complete job search log for the months of August, September, and October. Ibid. Petitioner provided no evidence to refute these findings. Id. at 3. Therefore, the ALJ was correct to determine Petitioner was in violation of her service plan. Moreover, Petitioner will be subject to a six month period of ineligibility for EA benefits pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a).

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in the action is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency's action is AFFIRMED.

JAN 28 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director