



State of New Jersey

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Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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CAROLE JOHNSON
Commissioner

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Lt. Governor

NATASHA JOHNSON
Director

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 08142-18 G.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C258757009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

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 failed to comply with her EA service plan ("SP"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 12, 2018, the Honorable Kimberly A. Moss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

Also on June 12, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner signed two updated SPs with the Agency on January 9, 2018, and March 13, 2018. See Initial Decision at 2. Both SPs required that Petitioner pay her portion of her rent and to do a specified number of job searches. *Ibid.* Petitioner failed to pay her portion of the rent for March and April, 2018. *Ibid.* Further, Petitioner did not provide the Agency with proof of conducting any job searches. *Ibid.* While Petitioner maintained that she had good cause for her failure to comply with the SP due to her own intermittent hospitalization, as well as the death of her father, Petitioner failed to provide any documentation to substantiate these assertions. *Ibid.* Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to comply with her SP, without good cause, and affirmed the Agency's determination. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a). I agree.

Additionally, as I concur with the ALJ's conclusion that Petitioner failed to comply with her SP, without good cause, I also affirm the Agency's imposition of a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits. See Adverse Action Notice dated April 23, 2018; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a). The six-month EA ineligibility penalty shall run from the date of the Agency's termination of EA benefits, April 23, 2018, through October 22, 2018.

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 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.



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

Officially approved final version.

JUN 21 2010

Natasha Johnson

Director

