



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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Elizabeth Connolly  
Acting Commissioner

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 2208-15 B.N.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C099824 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of her Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") and Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's benefits because she failed to follow the rules of the shelter in which she was placed and thereby failed to comply with her Service Plan ("SP"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 27, 2015, the Honorable John S. Kennedy, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence.

On April 7, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision affirming the Agency determination. Petitioner acknowledged on the record that she is no longer eligible for WFNJ/TANF, as the Division of Child Protection and Permanency ("DCP&P") took custody of her child. See Initial Decision at 2. The ALJ therefore deemed the issue no longer in dispute. *Ibid.*

Here, the record shows that Petitioner admitted to the destruction of property by punching holes in the walls at the shelter where she had been placed. *Ibid.* Moreover, Petitioner signed an SP whereby she agreed to abide by the rules and regulations of the shelter facility. See Initial Decision at 2, see also Exhibit R-2 at 12, 16. The ALJ found, as a result of Petitioner's destruction of the shelter's property, that she violated the terms of her SP. Therefore, the ALJ ordered that the Agency's actions terminating Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF and EA benefits, and its imposition of a six-month penalty, be affirmed. See Initial Decision at 4.

No exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have independently reviewed the record and I hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency's determination.

As the record indicates that the Petitioner may have open case with the Division of Child Protection and Permanency ("DCP&P"), f/k/a the Division of Youth and Family Services, a copy of the Initial and Final Decisions shall be forwarded to DCP&P.

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

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

MAY 13 2015

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Natasha Johnson  
Director