



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 11372-15 H.H.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA511424 (CUMBERLAND COUNTY BD OF SOC SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of his Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"). The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because it determined that he failed to comply with his EA service plan ("SP"), without good cause. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 9, 2015, the Honorable Bruce M. Gorman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On September 18, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record shows that Petitioner was required to produce ten weekly housing searches, and to apply for all low income housing pursuant to the terms of his SP. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 18. The ALJ found that Petitioner had violated the terms of his SP, without good cause, when he failed to meet his responsibilities. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a). Therefore, the ALJ concluded that the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by Petitioner on October 2, 2015.

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, I have reviewed Petitioner's Exceptions, and I find that the arguments made therein do not alter my decision in this matter.

By way of further comment, because I find that Petitioner has failed to comply with his SP, without good cause, he is ineligible for EA for a period of six months, effective July 9, 2015. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a).

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

OCT 26 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director