



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 14020-15 J.S.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C217775 (CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD 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 he had failed to comply with his EA service plan ("SP"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 12, 2015, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On November 20, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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

The purpose of EA is to meet the emergent needs of public assistance recipients, such as imminent homelessness, so that the recipient can participate in work activities without disruption and continue on a path to self-sufficiency. 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 his 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 written and signed SP. *Ibid.* If a recipient fails to comply with the SP, without good cause, then the recipient's EA benefits must be terminated for a period of six months. *Ibid.*

Here, the record indicates that Petitioner initially failed to comply with his SP back in March 2015, by failing to participate in his mandated treatment program and by failing to apply for low income housing. See Initial Decision at 2. Further, the record shows that Petitioner's EA benefits were terminated in March 2015, and a fair hearing on the matter was scheduled. Ibid. At the time of that hearing, the Agency rescinded its termination to allow Petitioner more time to comply with the terms of his SP. Ibid. However, the record shows that Petitioner again failed to comply with the terms of his SP, and his EA benefits were terminated on July 31, 2015. Id. at 2-4. Accordingly, the ALJ found that Petitioner failed to comply with his SP, without good cause, and that the Agency properly terminated his EA benefits. Id. at 5.

As I agree that Petitioner has failed to comply with his SP, he is ineligible for EA benefits for a period of six months, effective July 31, 2015. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a).

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

Signed Copy on File

at DFD, BARA

DEC 14 2015

Natasha Johnson
Director