



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
P.O. Box 716
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Chris Christie
Governor

Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson
Director
Tel. (609) 588-2400

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 14034-15 M.R.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA594064 (MERCER 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 she failed to comply with her EA service plan ("SP") by failing to provide the Agency with the required MED-1 form, and by violating the rules of her transitional housing placement. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 6, 2015, the Honorable Dean J. Buono, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On October 27, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record shows that Petitioner was placed in transitional housing where one of the conditions of residency is that the individual be either pregnant or have recently given birth. See Initial Decision at 2. Here, the record indicates that Petitioner provided multiple false documents to the transitional housing facility in an attempt to verify her alleged pregnancy, and failed to provide the Agency with the required MED-1 form validating her alleged pregnancy. *Id.* at 2-3. Therefore, the ALJ found that Petitioner failed to comply with her SP by failing to provide the Agency with the required MED-1 form, and by failing to comply with the rules and regulations of her transitional housing placement. *Id.* at 5. Accordingly, the ALJ found that the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits. *Ibid.*; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a).

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 in this matter.

Additionally, because Petitioner failed to comply with her SP, she is ineligible for EA benefits for a period of six months, effective August 27, 2015. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a).

By way of comment, the Agency shall refer the Petitioner to any programs or agencies which may assist her with her housing needs.

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

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

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Natasha Johnson
Director