



**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 6417-15 S.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C045451 (SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner EA benefits because 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 1, 2015, the Honorable Bruce M. Gorman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On June 9, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, which affirmed the Agency's action.

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 related activities without disruption in order to continue on the path to self-sufficiency. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a). N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a) outlines both recipient and Agency responsibilities in helping to resolve the emergency situation and to assist the recipient in securing suitable permanent housing. Recipients' responsibilities include acknowledgment by their signature that they will comply with, and carry out, a service plan. If a recipient fails to comply with the service plan, without good cause, then the recipient's EA benefits must be terminated for a period of six months. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a).

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The record shows that Petitioner executed an SP wherein she agreed to attend all Agency scheduled appointments. See Initial Decision at 2. However, the record further shows that Petitioner failed to comply with her SP by failing to attend two scheduled appointments with the Agency, without good cause. Ibid. Accordingly, I find that the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits. Additionally, Petitioner is ineligible for EA benefits for six months. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a); see also Exhibit R-1 at 2.

By way of comment, although the ALJ refers to the termination of Petitioner's Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits throughout his Initial Decision, it is clear from the record that it was Petitioner's EA benefits that were terminated. See Exhibit R-1 at 2. Regardless, the ALJ's ultimate conclusion correctly affirms the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3.

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

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

**JUN 23 2015**

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Natasha Johnson  
Director