



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 11562-14 T.L.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C026451 (SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") and the imposition of a penalty. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On October 20, 2014, the Honorable John S. Kennedy, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On November 3, 2014, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision which affirmed the Agency determination.

Neither party submitted exceptions.

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

Petitioner receives Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits.

The Agency terminated EA, and contends Petitioner's violated her Service Plan ("SP"). Specifically, the Agency alleges Petitioner failed to appear for a required appointment with the Agency to submit housing and employment searches, a completed spend down form, bank statements and utility bills. Petitioner did not establish good cause for her failure to attend the required meeting, and at the OAL hearing 3 months later, did not produce the requested documentation she claims to have in her possession, and which is necessary to establish her eligibility for EA.

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"Receipt of [EA] is contingent upon the recipient's taking reasonable steps toward resolving the emergent situation." N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a). "Failure to comply with the mandatory activities of the [SP] without good cause shall result in the termination of EA benefits for a period of six months." Ibid.

Petitioner may reapply for EA after expiration of the 6-month penalty on January 27, 2015, subject to applicable eligibility criteria.

For the foregoing reasons, I ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency determination.

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

DEC 10 2014

Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director