



*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 14535-14 L.S.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C264371 (CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination/denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA"). Because Petitioner appealed, this matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 18, 2014, the Honorable Ronald W. Reba, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On November 18, 2014, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency determination.

Neither party filed exceptions to the Initial Decision.

As Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record for this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision, and having made an independent evaluation of the record, I ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency 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). When a Work First New Jersey recipient qualifies for EA, the "county/municipal agency shall determine the most appropriate form of emergency housing which is required to address the need and authorize payment of the costs of adequate emergency shelter/housing, taking into consideration individual/family circumstances and services provided." N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(a)(1). Such emergency

housing includes placement in transitional housing. Ibid. When a recipient refuses an EA placement offered by the Agency, without good cause, then she has caused her own homelessness and is ineligible for EA for a period of six months. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c).

Here, the Petitioner was placed at an EA shelter in August 2014. See Check History at 14. The Agency instructed the Petitioner to complete an application for an available transitional housing placement and she refused. See Fair Hearing Report at 1. The Agency terminated her EA because she refused to complete the application for available transitional housing or accept the transitional housing placement. See Adverse Action Notice at 5. During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that she refused the placement because she had safety concerns about a stalker. However, Petitioner failed to provide any evidence that would substantiate her claim that the proposed transitional housing placement was unsafe. As such, the ALJ concluded, and I agree, that the Agency appropriately terminated EA. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1 and 6.3(a)(1).

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency determination is hereby AFFIRMED.

DEC - 2 2014

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
Director