



*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*

Jennifer Velez  
*Commissioner*

Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
*Director*  
Tel. (609) 588-2000

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 8232-14 M.R.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA400387 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 29, 2014, the Honorable James A. Geraghty, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On August 11, 2014, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision which affirmed the Agency determination.

Neither party submitted exceptions.

As 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/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program benefits. His girlfriend receives Social Security Disability Insurance ("SSDI") and SNAP benefits.

EA is in relevant part indicated "when shelter costs either equal or exceed total recorded income to the WFNJ or Social Security Income assistance unit and the recipient is unable to document other sources of income ... which enable the individual or family to meet monthly housing/living expenses." N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a)(1).

The Agency terminated EA after it determined Petitioner and his girlfriend live together in Petitioner's apartment, and their combined WFNJ/GA and SSDI income exceeds Petitioner's rent by almost \$400.00. Petitioner contends his girlfriend actually lives in an apartment at another location where she does not pay rent despite being a lessee on the lease agreement.

There is sufficient credible evidence to support the ALJ's finding Petitioner's girlfriend lives with him. The girlfriend identifies Petitioner's apartment as her address for her SSDI and SNAP cases. Petitioner previously submitted a letter to the Agency in connection with his SNAP case stating Petitioner lives with him in his one-bedroom apartment. The ALJ was not persuaded by a letter from Petitioner's landlord stating Petitioner lives alone or the girlfriend's lease agreement for another apartment, the ALJ emphasizing she was not responsible for rent. I note the girlfriend did not testify at the hearing.

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

**SEP 29 2014**

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

---

Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
Director