



*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 11321-14 T.H.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C177510 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Emergency Assistance ("EA") in the form of back rent, Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA") and the imposition of a six month period of ineligibility for EA. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for EA and imposed the penalty because Petitioner's apartment was unaffordable, was above Fair Market Rent ("FMR"), and as Petitioner was unable to afford the apartment, she caused her own homelessness. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 11, 2014, the Honorable Kelly J. Kirk, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing and took testimony. No documents were admitted into evidence.

On September 12, 2014, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision which affirmed the Agency determination. The ALJ agreed with the Agency that Petitioner had caused her own homelessness, without good cause. See Initial Decision at 4.

Neither party filed Exceptions to the Initial Decision.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the Initial Decision and following an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter.

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

SEP 18 2014

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
Director