



State of New Jersey

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Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

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NATASHA JOHNSON
Director

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 06881-19 A.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C708413007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of storage costs and late fees reimbursement. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that Petitioner's storage costs and late fees had already been paid in full. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 23, 2019, the Honorable Danielle Pasquale, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On that same date, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination.

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 hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, and the Agency's determination.

In pertinent part, N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(a) provides that EA benefits are authorized for "reasonable costs of temporary storage."

Here, Petitioner is seeking storage fees and late fees in the amount of \$419, which she claimed were owed to her from a prior hearing which she had withdrawn. See Initial Decision at 2. However, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that the Agency had paid Petitioner's storage and late fees, in full. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibits R-1 through R-4. Further, the ALJ found that Petitioner failed to provide any evidence to substantiate her claim, and that her testimony was "wholly incredible," and "unruly." See Initial Decision at 3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that no monies were owed to Petitioner for additional storage and late fee costs, and that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. *Ibid.*; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(a). I agree.

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



Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Director

JUN 19 2019

