



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

CAROLE JOHNSON
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

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 04356-19 A.J.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C141315020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that he was evicted from affordable housing for nonpayment of rent, thereby causing his own homelessness. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 2, 2019, the Honorable JoAnn LaSala Candido, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

Also on April 2, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner is a Supplemental Security Income benefits recipient, and that his monthly rent was \$400. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2. The ALJ found that Petitioner was evicted from affordable housing for the sole reason of nonpayment of rent, thereby causing his own homelessness. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-2. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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

By way of comment, as I concur with the ALJ's conclusion that Petitioner caused his own homelessness, I hereby impose upon him a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3). Petitioner's six-month EA ineligibility penalty shall run from March 22, 2019, the date of the Agency's denial, through September 21, 2019. See Exhibit R-1.

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

Officially approved final version.

APR - 3 2019

Natasha Johnson
Director

