



## State of New Jersey

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

NATASHA JOHNSON  
*Assistant Commissioner*

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 **03743-23 A.H.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C061291012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that she failed to provide required documentation to the Agency needed to determine her EA benefits eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 5, 2023, the Honorable Judith Lieberman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record remained open until May 9, 2023, to permit Petitioner to supplement the record, and then closed.

On May 10, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ in this matter issued a very thorough and comprehensive Initial Decision, providing a detailed and well thought out analysis, applying law to fact. See Initial Decision at 2-9. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide documentation to the Agency necessary for it to assess her eligibility and need for EA benefits, without good cause. Id. at 2-4, 7-8; see also Exhibits P-1, R-2 at 4, R-4, R-5. Specifically, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide the documentation necessary to verify that, at the time of her EA benefits application, her then-current apartment was uninhabitable. See Initial Decision at 5-8; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1. 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 8-10; see also Exhibit R-8, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5), (d), -6.1(a). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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.

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



Officially approved final version. May 17, 2023

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

