



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

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 **08828-23 G.Z.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C114531009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)**

Petitioner appealed from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's EA benefits, contending that she was not homeless. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A telephonic plenary hearing was scheduled for November 28, 2023, before the Honorable Matthew G. Miller, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"). On that date, Petitioner called into the scheduled telephonic hearing, and during the conference call segment of the hearing, the ALJ found that Petitioner was engaging in disrespectful behavior towards the Agency representative, and repeatedly admonished her for such behavior. See Initial Decision at 2. Despite these repeated admonishments, Petitioner continued with her unacceptable behavior, and then hung up the phone. Ibid. As a result, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had abandoned the hearing, and the appeal was dismissed. Ibid. On November 30, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, finding that Petitioner's refusal to continue with the hearing amounted to Petitioner's abandonment of her appeal, and the ALJ thereby dismissed Petitioner's appeal.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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, as I find that Petitioner abandoned her appeal in this matter. As such, the Agency's June 15, 2023, denial of EA benefits to Petitioner, remains in force as issued.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and Petitioner's appeal is hereby dismissed.

Officially approved final version. December 27, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

