



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development

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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 16881-15 S.N.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C041901 (SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits because it determined that she had caused her own homelessness, without good cause. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 14, 2015, the Honorable W. Todd Miller, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On December 15, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record shows that Petitioner was living in subsidized housing prior to being evicted for nonpayment of rent. See Initial Decision at 2. The record also shows that Petitioner was terminated from her employment for excess absenteeism. *Id.* at 1-2. The ALJ found that Petitioner caused her own homelessness, without good cause. *Id.* at 4. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency properly denied Petitioner EA benefits for the foregoing reasons. *Id.* at 5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3).

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

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 in this matter.

By way of comment, because I find that Petitioner caused her own homelessness, without good cause, she is hereby subject to a six-month period of EA ineligibility, effective August 18, 2015. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3).

By way of further comment, upon the instruction of the ALJ, a copy of the Initial and Final Decisions shall be forwarded to the Division of Child Protection and Permanency ("DCP&P"), f/k/a DYFS.

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

JAN 21 2016

Signed Copy on File

at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director