



State of New Jersey

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

ELIZABETH CONNOLLY
Acting Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

NATASHA JOHNSON
Director
Tel: (609) 588-2000

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 00323-18 T.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C237478009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of his application for Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits, and imposition of a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits, for causing his own homelessness. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, and imposed a six-month EA penalty, contending that he moved to New Jersey ("NJ") without a plan for self-sufficiency. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 18, 2018, the Honorable Kimberly A. Moss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On January 18, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record indicates that Petitioner moved from NJ to Egypt in the summer of 2016. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. Petitioner and his family moved back to NJ in September 2017. Ibid. Upon his return, Petitioner tried to get a job at the company where he had previously worked without success. Ibid. Further, Petitioner, by his own admission, had been living in NJ for less than six months before applying for EA benefits, and had no employment lined up prior to relocating back to NJ. See Exhibit R-1 at 2. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that, by returning to NJ from Egypt without an offer of employment, Petitioner had moved to NJ without a plan for self-sufficiency, thereby causing his own homelessness. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3). Therefore, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1, and 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 in this matter.

By way of comment, as I agree with the ALJ that Petitioner has caused his own homelessness, I hereby impose a six-month period of EA ineligibility, which shall run from January 2, 2018, the date of the Agency's denial of EA benefits, though July 1, 2018. See Exhibit R-1; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3).



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

Officially approved final version.

JAN 20 2018

Natasha Johnson

Director

