



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
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 **02151-22 M.R.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C210208013 (MONMOUTH COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits, and the imposition of a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, and imposed a six-month EA ineligibility penalty, contending that she had caused her own homelessness. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 24, 2022, the Honorable Tricia M. Caliguire, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

Also on March 24, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner had been removed from her father's home, where she had been residing for approximately three years, due to her violent actions toward her father which resulted in a Final Restraining Order ("FRO") being issued against her. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-4. Although Petitioner claimed that it was her father's actions that had caused her homelessness, the ALJ found that Petitioner failed to provide any documentary or testimonial evidence to substantiate that claim. See Initial Decision at 3. Moreover, the ALJ found that the FRO was proof that Petitioner had been removed from her father's home due to her violent behavior. *Id.* at 4; see also Exhibit R-4. Accordingly, the ALJ determined that Petitioner had caused her own homeless, without good cause. See Initial Decision at 4. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner, and the imposition of a six-month EA ineligibility penalty, were proper and must stand. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3)(vi). 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.

By way of comment, Petitioner is advised that her EA ineligibility penalty shall run from December 13, 2021, the effective date of the Agency's denial, through June 12, 2022. See Exhibit R-1.



By way of further comment, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with her current needs, including Social Services for the Homeless.

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

Officially approved final version.

March 30, 2022

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

