



State of New Jersey

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 **09623-25 J.W.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C456412004 (CAMDEN-CCBSS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of a placement location change related to his Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency contends that Petitioner was provided with a new placement, upon his request, and that his current placement is in compliance with his MED-1 form, and an appropriate form of emergency housing. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 6, 2025, the Honorable Michael R. Stanzione, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On June 9, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

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, and AFFIRM the Agency's determination, based on the discussion below.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(a)(1), the "agency shall determine the most appropriate form of emergency housing which is required to address the need and authorize payment of the costs of adequate emergency shelter/housing, taking into consideration individual/family circumstances and services provided. Ibid.

Here, Petitioner applied for EA benefits on March 28, 2025, and provided a MED-1 form, from his physician, stating that he could not be placed at a shelter due to his mental health and a bedbug allergy. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. Petitioner was placed at a motel on May 23, 2025, and two days later he emailed the Agency stating that his room was dirty and that there were insects, which he suspected to be bedbugs, present in the room. Ibid. Thereafter, the Agency relocated Petitioner to a different motel and one day later Petitioner emailed the Agency stating that the motel was too isolated and offered no Wi-Fi. Ibid. Petitioner further wrote that the motel had a history of bedbugs, although he had not yet seen any bedbugs. Ibid. At the time of the hearing, Petitioner acknowledged that, besides the motel being inconveniently located and having no Wi-Fi, that his placement was not as bad as he originally believed it to be. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. The Agency confirmed that Petitioner would continue to receive EA benefits and that he would be housed at his current motel placement until June 17, 2025, at which time his placement would be extended or the Agency would consider a different placement. Ibid.

Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency accommodated Petitioner's request to be moved to a different placement, upon having issues with his original EA placement, and that the current placement does not violate the terms of the MED-1 form submitted by Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3.



Accordingly, the ALJ found that the EA placement meets the medical requirements dictated by Petitioner's MED-1 form and is an appropriate EA placement. Ibid. I agree.

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

Officially approved final version. june 16, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

