



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 8498-15 A.R.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C186207 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for EA on the basis that Petitioner had the financial ability to pay her rent but failed to do so thereby causing her own homelessness. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 10, 2015, the Honorable Kimberly A. Moss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On June 16, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency determination. The ALJ noted that Petitioner testified that she did not pay her rent because she believed that the landlord had overcharged her on previous months because she did not know she was in a rent controlled apartment. See Initial Decision at 2. Eviction proceedings were brought against Petitioner because she failed to pay her rent for several months. *Ibid.* The ALJ concluded Petitioner caused her own homelessness because she could have paid her rent and chose not to do so. *Id.* at 3.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by either party.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision and I hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter.

By way of comment, as Petitioner caused her own homelessness without good cause, she is now subject to a six-month EA ineligibility penalty. Therefore, Petitioner may reapply for EA benefits no earlier than December 9, 2015.

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

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

JUN 24 2015

Natasha Johnson
Director