



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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Director
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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 6174-15 B.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA541167 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because she was not homeless due to circumstances beyond her control. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 26, 2015, the Honorable Leland S. McGee, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On August 5, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record shows that Petitioner's behavior directly caused her eviction from her apartment. See Initial Decision at 2. Specifically, her landlord, in a letter to Petitioner, stated that her behavior was disruptive to other tenants, she had unauthorized people staying overnight in her room, and she caused damage to the premises. *Ibid.* Consequently, she was evicted from the premises on July 31, 2015. See Exhibit R-6. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that Petitioner caused her own homelessness, without good cause, and that the Agency properly terminated her EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3).

Exceptions to this Initial Decision were filed by Petitioner on August 14, 2015.

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.

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Additionally, because Petitioner caused her own homelessness, she is ineligible for EA benefits for a period of six months. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(3)(iv).

By way of comment, I have reviewed Petitioner's Exceptions, and I find that the arguments made therein do not alter my decision in this matter.

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

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

AUG 20 2015

Natasha Johnson
Director