



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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Chris Christie
Governor

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Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson
Director

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 6592-15 D.G.

AGENCY DKT. NO. V546505 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of his application for Emergency Assistance ("EA") in the form of a shelter placement. The Agency contends that Petitioner failed to register at his shelter placement on the day he was required to do so thereby causing his own homelessness, which then resulted in the Agency imposing a six-month ineligibility penalty on Petitioner. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 11, 2015, the Honorable JoAnn LaSala Candido, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held an emergent plenary hearing and took testimony.

On May 11, 2015, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that Petitioner did not demonstrate good cause for failing to timely register at the shelter. See Initial Decision at 2. The ALJ therefore ordered, and I concur, that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's EA application be affirmed.

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 following an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter. Because the Petitioner caused his own homelessness without good cause, he is ineligible for EA for a period of six months. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3).

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

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

MAY 18 2015

Natasha Johnson
Director