



*State of New Jersey*

**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 940-15 F.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. V443557 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA because it contends Petitioner caused her own homelessness since she had the available funds to pay her rent. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 23, 2015, the Honorable Caridad S. Rigo, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On January 26, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination. Following a review of the record, the ALJ found that Petitioner had the available funds and the capacity to have paid her rent. See Initial Decision at 1. The ALJ agreed with the Agency that Petitioner had not substantiated that she had used the available funds on items necessary or appropriate for the purpose of meeting the expenses of daily living. Id at 3.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and having made an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter.

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

FEB 11 2015

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
Director