



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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Governor

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Commissioner

Jeanette Page-Hawkins
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 7143-14 S.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C042645 (CAPE MAY COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 17, 2014, the Honorable Bruce M. Gorman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On July 31, 2014, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision which affirmed the Agency determination.

Neither party submitted exceptions.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I independently reviewed the record and hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency determination.

Petitioner receives Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF").

Petitioner has received EA since September 2012, and EA in the form of temporary rental assistance since November 2012. In April 2014, the Agency terminated EA after it determined Petitioner's mother lived in Petitioner's subsidized apartment in breach of the lease agreement. The mother has countable income of more than \$1,000.00.

Petitioner admits her mother lived in the apartment for three months beginning in January 2014, although a letter from the landlord states the mother has lived in the apartment for approximately two years and is paying part of the rent.

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There is sufficient credible evidence the Agency appropriately terminated EA. Based upon the foregoing facts, I find Petitioner caused her own homelessness, without good cause, is thereby subject to a 6-month penalty and is potentially ineligible for EA under the Housing Hardship Extension pilot. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3)(v), (c)(3)(vi) and (c)(3)(ix); -6.9(c)(3); -6.9(c)(4)(i) and (c)(4)(iii).

The record suggests Petitioner and/or her mother may have deliberately misrepresented or concealed relevant facts in order to obtain or attempt to obtain payments of assistance for which one or both individuals are not eligible. I therefore refer this matter to the Agency to initiate an investigation for possible fraud or intentional program violations. N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.13(b).

For the foregoing reasons, I ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency determination.

Signed Copy on File

at DFD, BARA

SEP 19 2014

Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director