



## 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 4491-15 S.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C298604 (CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's ("Agency") termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits on the basis Petitioner quit her job thereby causing her own homelessness without good cause. Because the Petitioner appealed, this matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 23, 2015, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence.

On April 28, 2015, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision, which affirmed the Agency's determination to terminate Petitioner's EA in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA") and the imposition of a six-month penalty since Petitioner quit her job.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record for this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision, and having made an independent evaluation of the record, for the reasons below, I ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency's termination of EA and the imposition of a six-month penalty.

The purpose of EA is to meet the emergent needs of public assistance recipients, such as imminent homelessness, so that the recipient can participate in work activities without disruption and continue on a path to self-sufficiency. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a).

However, EA shall not be provided to a Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") applicant for a six-month period where the "EA applicant or recipient has caused his or her own homelessness, without good cause." N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3). Such cause may include when an adult member "voluntarily quits employment without good cause while receiving emergency assistance." Id.

Here, the record demonstrates that Petitioner had been receiving EA in the form of TRA since September 2013. However, in February 2015, Petitioner advised the Agency she voluntarily quit her job. Indeed, Petitioner executed a written statement confirming she in fact quit her job after a discussion with her manager. See Initial Decision at 3. As such, the ALJ correctly reasoned the Agency's termination of EA benefits was appropriate, including the six-month penalty, since Petitioner voluntarily quit her employment. Ibid.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency's termination of EA benefits, including an imposition of a six-month penalty, is AFFIRMED.

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

**MAY 26 2015**

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Natasha Johnson  
Director