



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 16960-15 T.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA555380 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"), and its determination that shelter assistance was the more appropriate form of EA. The Agency denied Petitioner EA/TRA benefits because it determined that she failed to provide the necessary verification under an executed Stipulation of Settlement. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 30, 2015, the Honorable Joan Bedrin Murray, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On November 2, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record shows that Petitioner and the Agency entered into a Stipulation of Settlement, wherein the Agency's agreement to provide Petitioner EA/TRA for back rent (July, August, and September 2015), was contingent upon Petitioner providing proof of an offer of employment. See Initial Decision at 2; see also "Stipulation of Settlement." The record also shows that the Agency reevaluated Petitioner's EA/TRA eligibility when she failed to provide the necessary employment documentation, and determined that shelter placement was the more appropriate form of EA, in addressing her circumstance. See Initial Decision at 3. The ALJ found that Petitioner failed to provide the Agency with the necessary documentation. *Ibid.* The ALJ also found that Petitioner was facing an imminent eviction from her apartment. *Ibid.*; see also "Tenancy Summons and Return of Service." Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency properly denied Petitioner EA/TRA benefits when

Page 2

she failed to provide the pertinent employment verification, and properly determined that shelter assistance was the more appropriate form of EA. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(a)(1).

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 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.

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

NOV 13 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director