



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 10635-14 T.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA159358 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for EA benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for EA because she caused her own homelessness by voluntarily quitting her job. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 29, 2014, the Honorable Michael Antoniewicz, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On August 29, 2014, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination.

No exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As 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, I accept and adopt the Findings of Fact and the Conclusions of Law as contained in the Initial Decision.

The purpose of EA is to meet the emergent needs, such as imminent homelessness, of Work First New Jersey recipients and Supplemental Security Income recipients. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a). In order to be eligible for EA benefits, N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c) provides, in pertinent part, that the individual must have "an actual or imminent eviction from prior housing, and the assistance unit is in a state of homelessness or imminent homelessness due to circumstances beyond their control or the absence of a realistic capacity to plan in advance for substitute housing."

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However, if the benefits recipient is homeless or imminently homeless "as a direct result of the voluntary cessation of employment ... without good cause" then the benefits recipient is not eligible for EA. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3). Moreover, when an EA applicant or recipient has caused her own homelessness, without good cause, she is ineligible for EA for a period of six months. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3).

It appears from the record that Petitioner quit her job due to a family problem. Exhibit R-2. Because her reason for leaving her employment is not considered a good cause reason, she was disqualified for receipt of unemployment benefits. Ibid. Petitioner testified that she quit her job because she was separated from her husband.

The ALJ found that Petitioner voluntarily quit her job without good cause, thereby causing her current housing emergency. As such, the ALJ concluded, and I agree, that the Petitioner is ineligible for EA for a period of six months and the denial of her request for EA was appropriate.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is ADOPTED and the Agency action is AFFIRMED.

SEP 11 2014

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director