



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 11130-14 T.R.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA270089 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Emergency Assistance ("EA") in the form of a furniture voucher. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for the furniture voucher as Petitioner had already received the maximum allowable amount of furniture vouchers, being three, and had also exceeded her lifetime limit of EA. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 19, 2014, the Honorable Jesse H. Strauss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On September 19, 2014, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision which reversed the Agency determination.

Neither party filed Exceptions to the Initial Decision.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the Initial Decision and following an independent review of the record, I disagree with the ALJ's decision and hereby REJECT the Initial Decision in this matter.

The record in this matter reveals that Petitioner has exceeded her lifetime limit of EA. See Initial Decision at 2. To even be considered for EA in the form of a furniture voucher, Petitioner would have to still be eligible for further EA benefits, which she is not. Moreover, Petitioner has received the maximum amount of furniture vouchers

permissible under our regulations, having previously received three furniture vouchers. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(a)(4)(i).

As it appears from the record that the Petitioner has an open case with the Division of Child Protection and Permanency ("DCP&P"), a copy of the Initial and Final Decisions in this matter will be forwarded to DCP&P.

Based upon the foregoing, the Initial Decision in this matter is REJECTED and the Agency's action is hereby AFFIRMED.

OCT 22 2014

Signed Copy on File

at DFD, BARA

Jeanette Page-Hawkins

Director