



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 14881-15 J.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C079084 (ATLANTIC CO. DEPT OF FAM. & COM. DEV)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of his application for Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits because he refused the Agency's offer to place him in a shelter. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 27, 2015, the Honorable Bruce M. Gorman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On November 19, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record shows that Petitioner applied for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see Exhibit R-1 at 11-16. The record also shows that Petitioner refused the Agency's offer to place him in a shelter. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3. The ALJ found that the Agency shall determine the most appropriate form of housing to address Petitioner's needs and circumstance. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(a)(1). The ALJ also found that Petitioner offered no evidence to support his decision to refuse the shelter placement. See Initial Decision at 3. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency properly denied Petitioner EA benefits. *Ibid.*

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.

DEC 14 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director