



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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Chris Christie
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Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson
Director

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 3845-15 J.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C056973 (CAPE MAY COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits because Petitioner moved to New Jersey without a viable plan for housing. On March 31, 2015, the Honorable Bruce M. Gorman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On March 31, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision, which affirmed the Agency's denial of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 5. After in-depth testimony by Petitioner, the ALJ found that Petitioner's plan for moving to New Jersey appeared to be to obtain free housing from the Agency, and accordingly, found that plan insufficient to satisfy the requirements of N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c). See *id.* at 2-5. Therefore, the ALJ found, and I concur, that the Agency properly denied Petitioner EA benefits.

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 decision and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

As I agree that Petitioner caused her own homelessness by moving to New Jersey without a plan for housing, she is ineligible for EA benefits for a period of six-months, beginning March 16, 2015. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3); see also R-1 at 45.

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

APR 13 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director