



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 10569-14 K.P.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C314031 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's termination of continued Emergency Assistance ("EA") in the form of shelter placement. The Agency contends that Petitioner's continued EA under the Housing Hardship Extension ("HHE") program pilot was terminated due to an alleged non-compliance with shelter rules. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 26, 2014, the Honorable Sandra Ann Robinson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On August 28, 2014, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision reversing the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that Petitioner demonstrated good cause why she had removed her children from the shelter for several days when one of her children was hospitalized and she could not leave the other children by themselves at the shelter. See Initial Decision at 6-7. The ALJ directed that the Agency and Petitioner meet to resolve the family's housing situation and determine an appropriate placement. See *id.* at 8.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by either party.

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.

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

SEP - 5 2014

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director