



## 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 19027-15 M.G.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA597110 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits, and the imposition of a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits contending that she left her shelter placement, without good cause, thereby causing her own homelessness. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was scheduled for December 3, 2015, and adjourned in order to allow the parties an opportunity to return with additional documents. On December 9, 2015, the Honorable Joan Bedrin Murray, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 10, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that Petitioner left her shelter placement, without good cause, and thereby caused her own homelessness. See Initial Decision at 2-3, 4. Accordingly, the ALJ found that the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, and properly imposed a six-month EA penalty. *Id.* at 4.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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.

By way of comment, the fair hearing transmittal sheet reflects a contested issue pertaining to Petitioner's application for Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits, which was not addressed by the ALJ in his Initial Decision. Therefore, if Petitioner still has an issue concerning her WFNJ/GA application, she may request another fair hearing on that matter alone.

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

DEC 17 2015

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Natasha Johnson  
Director