



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 6473-15 V.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C153260 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for EA on the basis that Petitioner had failed to plan for her housing emergency, failure to pay back rent, and because she is currently not homeless. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 3, 2015, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On June 9, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency determination. The ALJ noted that Petitioner was living in subsidized housing and could have remained there if she paid the back rent owed and completed a detoxification program, both of which she failed to do. See Initial Decision at 2. The ALJ also commented that, at the hearing, Petitioner was currently living with her daughter and presented no evidence that she could not continue to do so. *Ibid.* The ALJ concluded Petitioner caused her own homelessness and is subject to a six month EA penalty. *Id.* at 3. I agree.

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 I hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter.

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

JUN 26 2015

Signed Copy on File

at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson

Director