



State of New Jersey

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Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 15661-18 M.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C517368002 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A plenary hearing was scheduled for November 13, 2018, before the Honorable Kelly J. Kirk, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ").

On that day, Petitioner and the Agency's representative appeared before the ALJ for a hearing. See Initial Decision at 2. After a discussion regarding applicable regulatory authority, Petitioner declined to go forward with a hearing on the record, and also declined to sign a form withdrawing her request for a hearing. *Ibid.* As a result, on November 19, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, finding that Petitioner had abandoned the hearing, and dismissed Petitioner's appeal with prejudice. *Ibid.*

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision.

By way of comment, as Petitioner's appeal has been dismissed with prejudice, Petitioner is foreclosed from filing any further appeal on this particular matter.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED. As Petitioner abandoned the appeal, the Agency's action stands, and is thereby AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version.

DEC 20 2018

Natasha Johnson
Director

