



State of New Jersey

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

ELIZABETH CONNOLLY
Acting Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

NATASHA JOHNSON
Director
Tel: (609) 588-2000

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 15332-17 T.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C472035007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits contending that she failed to provide information required to determine her EA benefits eligibility, including proof of employment status. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for November 14, 2017, but was adjourned several times, at the request of Petitioner, in order to allow her the opportunity to obtain documentation. On December 21, 2017, the Honorable Kimberly A. Moss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 21, 2017, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, Petitioner testified that she took a leave of absence from her employment to care for her grandmother, and that she never returned to that job. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 6. Petitioner provided no evidence to show that she was the caretaker for her grandmother, and in fact, Petitioner's grandmother had a home health aide caring for her. See Initial Decision at 2. Additionally, Petitioner failed to provide the Agency with required documentation needed to determine her eligibility for EA benefits, even though the ALJ had adjourned the hearing on several occasions to enable her to do so. *Id.* at 3. Based on the testimony and evidence presented, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner voluntarily quit her employment, without evidence of good cause, and therefore, the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. *Id.* at 6-7; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-5, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3). I agree.

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.

By way of comment, because I agree with the ALJ's conclusion that Petitioner voluntarily quit her employment, without good cause, I hereby impose upon her a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits, beginning October 5, 2017, the date of the Agency's denial, through April 4, 2018. See Initial Decision at 7; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3).



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

Officially approved final version.

ST 8-1

Natasha Johnson

Director

