



State of New Jersey

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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NATASHA JOHNSON
Assistant Commissioner

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 **16784-24 A.M.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C795631007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)**

Petitioner appealed from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. A telephonic plenary hearing was scheduled for December 10, 2024, before the Honorable Nanci G. Stokes, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"). On that date, Petitioner called into the scheduled telephonic hearing, and during a prehearing discussion regarding the denial of EA benefits, and before going on the record, Petitioner disconnected the call and failed to call back. See Initial Decision at 2. Further, the record reflects that Petitioner had not contacted the OAL since that hearing date, nor otherwise provided any indication that she wished to proceed. Ibid. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had abandoned her request for a fair hearing. Ibid. As a result, on December 11, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, dismissing Petitioner's appeal. Ibid.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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, as I find that Petitioner abandoned her appeal in this matter. As such, the Agency's October 25, 2024, denial of EA benefits to Petitioner, remains in force as issued.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and Petitioner's appeal is hereby DISMISSED with prejudice.

Officially approved final version. December 20, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

