



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 11379-18 C.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C213175009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits, and the imposition of a six-month period of EA ineligibility. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, and imposed a six-month EA penalty, contending that she caused her own homelessness by being terminated from her job, without good cause. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 14, 2018, the Honorable Michael Antoniewicz, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On August 15, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner failed to report to work on June 13, 2018, and failed to advise her employer that she would not be in to work that day. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2. Consequently, Petitioner was terminated from her job, as substantiated by documentation from her employer. Ibid. The ALJ found that Petitioner's actions resulted in her termination, without good cause, and further that her actions had caused her own homelessness. Id. at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.11(a), -6.1(c)(3). Accordingly, the ALJ affirmed the Agency's denial of Petitioner's application for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 6.1(c)(3)(vi). I agree.

Additionally, because I agree with the ALJ's conclusion that Petitioner has caused her own homelessness, I also affirm the Agency's imposition of a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits, beginning June 18, 2018, the date of the Agency's denial, through December 17, 2018. See Exhibit R-1; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3).

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, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with her current needs, including Social Services for the Homeless.



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

Officially approved final version.

AUG 23 2018

Natasha Johnson

Director

