



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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CAROLE JOHNSON
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

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 10849-18 G.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C174431007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 16, 2018, a plenary hearing was scheduled before the Honorable Michael Antoniewicz, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ").

Prior to beginning the hearing, Petitioner attended a conference with the Agency, became agitated, and abruptly left the hearing room. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner did not return to the hearing room or contact the ALJ to explain his departure. Ibid. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that Petitioner had abandoned the hearing, and dismissed Petitioner's appeal. See Initial Decision at 2-3.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by Petitioner on September 7, 2018.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the record and the ALJ's Initial Decision and hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision, and as Petitioner abandoned his fair hearing, the Agency's action stands, and is thereby AFFIRMED.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for EA benefits, and is advised that he must provide the Agency with all required documentation.

By way of further comment, I have reviewed Petitioner's Exceptions and find that the arguments made therein do not alter my decision in this matter.

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

Officially approved final version.

SEP 18 2018

Natasha Johnson
Director



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