



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 07554-18 M.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C743648007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits and the Agency's imposition of a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 30, 2018, a plenary hearing was scheduled before the Honorable Ernest M. Bongiovanni, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ").

Petitioner, who only speaks Spanish, appeared for the hearing on that date. See Initial Decision at 2. After a conversation, in Spanish, with the Agency's representative, Petitioner decided to withdraw her request for a fair hearing. Ibid. The ALJ asked Petitioner to wait for an interpreter, to ensure that Petitioner understood the withdrawal process and to sign a withdrawal form, however, Petitioner left the hearing and did not return. Ibid. As a result, the ALJ found that Petitioner had abandoned the hearing, and dismissed Petitioner's appeal. 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 record and the ALJ's Initial Decision and hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision in this matter.

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

JUN 04 2018

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Director

