



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 01748-18 S.O.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C486859007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied EA benefits to Petitioner contending that she voluntarily quit employment. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 5, 2018, the Honorable John P. Scollo, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On February 6, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that on January 30, 2018, Petitioner applied for EA benefits, in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA") to pay back rent, after being served with a Warrant of Removal by her landlord. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-1, R-5. Citing N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3), the Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, finding that Petitioner voluntarily quit her last employment without good cause. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-2. Petitioner testified that she left her job voluntarily to find more profitable employment, as she wasn't receiving enough hours of work. See Initial Decision at 3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concurred with the Agency, finding that Petitioner voluntarily quit employment without good cause. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3). Therefore, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. *Ibid.* 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.

As I concur with the ALJ's conclusion that Petitioner voluntarily quit her employment, I hereby impose upon Petitioner a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3)(vi). See Initial Decision at 4. The six-month EA ineligibility penalty shall run from the effective date of the Agency's denial notice, January 30, 2018, through July 29, 2018. See Exhibit R-2.

By way of further 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.

FEB 12 2018

Natasha Johnson

Director

