



State of New Jersey

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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 04095-19 S.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C154432004 (CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that she failed to provide documentation required to determine her EA benefits eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 29, 2019, the Honorable Carl V. Buck, III, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was held open for the submission of documents, and then closed on May 15, 2019. On June 5, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

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 ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency's determination.

It is anticipated that the Agency will accept, process, and recommend action on applications for WFNJ benefits within 30 days. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.5(a). In order to be found eligible WFNJ benefits, including EA benefits, the applicant must provide all necessary documentation requested by the county welfare agency. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5).

Here, the record reflects that, at the time Petitioner applied for EA benefits, the Agency requested that she provide it with certain documentation required to determine her eligibility for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. However, Petitioner failed to provide the requested documentation within the 30 days required for submission, and the Agency denied her application for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-7, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.5(a), -2.2(a)(5). The ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide the required documentation, without good cause, and therefore, the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also Exhibit R-7. I agree.

By way of comment, both the Initial Decision and the Agency's adverse action notice cite to N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a). That regulatory provision, however, is applicable only to EA benefits recipients, not EA benefits applicants, such as Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 4.

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



Officially approved final version.

JUL 17 2019

Natasha Johnson

Director

