



State of New Jersey

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

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Assistant Commissioner

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 03903-20 A.A.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C706692007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of storage fees. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that there is no emergency as she no longer resides in New Jersey ("NJ"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 18, 2020, the Honorable Andrew M. Baron, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, and took testimony. No documents were admitted into evidence.

On March 18, 2020, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner moved from NJ to New York sometime after she was evicted from her NJ apartment, in January 2020. See Initial Decision at 2-3. Petitioner then applied for EA benefits in the form of monthly storage payments. Id. at 2. However, the Agency determined, and the ALJ agreed, that Petitioner was ineligible for EA benefits because she was not a resident of NJ. Id. at 3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that that Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. Id. at 3-4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.11, -6.1(a). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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.

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

MAR 23 2020

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

