



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

CAROLE JOHNSON
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

NATASHA JOHNSON
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 03873-20 S.H.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C779400007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of EA benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits due to a failure to cooperate. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On March 18, 2020, the matter was scheduled for a plenary hearing before the Honorable Andrew M. Baron, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ").

Also on March 18, 2020, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reflecting that the matter was resolved, as, on the date of the hearing, Petitioner went to the Agency offices and provided whatever remaining documents were necessary, and the Agency therefore agreed, on the record, to reinstate Petitioner's eligibility and place her in a shelter. See Settlement Agreement. While Petitioner did not appear at the OAL for the hearing, as Petitioner had now provided whichever documentation the Agency required, and to provide Petitioner EA benefits, the ALJ approved the settlement, ex parte, which was put on the record. See Initial Decision at 3.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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 Settlement Agreement terms.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and the settlement terms are AFFIRMED.

MAR 23 2020

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

