



## State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN  
*Commissioner*

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Lt. Governor*

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

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 **03856-25 A.F.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C125244008 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits, and the imposition of a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, and imposed a six-month EA ineligibility penalty, contending that she was evicted from subsidized housing due to failure to timely submit her renewal application and required documentation, thereby causing her own homelessness, and that she had the capacity to plan to avoid her emergent situation. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 4, 2025, the Honorable Mamta Patel, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On March 5, 2025 the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations. Here, the record reflects, and Petitioner admitted, that she had lost her Section 8 housing voucher on January 31, 2025, and was evicted from such housing, because she failed to timely submit her renewal application and required documentation. See Initial Decision at 2. On January 31, 2025, the Agency provided Petitioner with immediate need assistance and provided temporary shelter in a motel. Id. at 2; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2. The same day, Petitioner was given a Request for Information notice seeking documentation from HUD (the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) explaining why she was evicted from her housing. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-3. Petitioner visited the Agency several times, on February 19, February 26, and February 27, however, she never provided the Agency with any documentation regarding her eviction from Section 8 housing. See Initial Decision at 3. Based on the testimony of the parties, and the documentation submitted, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide any good cause reason for the loss of her Section 8 housing voucher, nor for her failure to provide documentation to the Agency, and as such, the ALJ found that Petitioner had the capacity to plan to avoid her homelessness, and was not homeless due to circumstances beyond her control. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5), -6.1(c). Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had caused her own homelessness, and therefore, the Agency's denial of EA benefits, and imposition of a six-month EA ineligibility penalty, were proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3)(vi). I agree.

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.

By way of comment, Petitioner is advised that her six-month EA ineligibility penalty began on February 27, 2025, and shall continue until September 1, 2025. See Exhibit R-4.

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. March 11, 2025

---

Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

