

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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Acting 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 8499-15 G.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. V564388 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because he voluntarily left his housing placement and refused alternative housing suggested by the Agency. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 18, 2015, the Honorable Elia A. Pelios, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On June 18, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination. The record shows that Petitioner admitted to voluntarily leaving his housing placement and refusing to consider alternative housing suggested by the Agency. See Initial Decision at 3. Accordingly, the ALJ found that Petitioner caused his own homelessness, that the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, and, accordingly, imposed a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits. See id. at 3-4.

No Exceptions to this Initial Decision were filed.

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 in this matter.

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Petitioner shall be ineligible for EA benefits from May 1, 2015, through November 1, 2015.

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

Signed Copy on File at DFD, BARA

JUN 2 5 2015 Natasha Johnson Director