



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development  
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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 13574-15 J.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA594679 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"), and its imposition of a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits and imposed a six-month penalty because it alleged that Petitioner caused his own homelessness. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 9, 2015, the Honorable Ellen S. Bass, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held an emergent plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On September 9, 2015, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that Petitioner, who in 2012 received a \$139,000.00 inheritance, failed to properly handle his money, including his Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits. See Initial Decision at 2, 4; see also Exhibit P-1. Moreover, the ALJ found that Petitioner squandered his inheritance on non-essential items. See Initial Decision at 4. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's EA application, and its imposition of a six-month EA ineligibility penalty, were proper. *Ibid.*; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3). I concur.

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.

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

SEP 17 2018

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Natasha Johnson  
Director