

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 200911710  
Issue No.: 5016  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Load No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: September 2, 2010  
Macomb County DHS

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Aaron McClintic

**HEARING DECISION**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on September 2, 2010. The Claimant appeared testified. [REDACTED], ES appeared on behalf of the Department.

**ISSUE**

Was the Department correct in denying Claimant's SER application?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the competent, material and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

- (1) Claimant applied for SER benefits on October 23, 2008.
- (2) Claimant's application for SER was denied on December 9, 2008 because the Department was unable to verify actual or threatened shutoff.
- (3) Claimant requested a hearing on December 11, 2008 contesting the denial of her SER application.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The State Emergency Relief ("SER") program is established by 2004 PA 344. The SER program is administered pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.* and by final administrative rules filed with the Secretary of State on October 28, 1993. MAC R 400.7001-400.7049.

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The Department of Human Services' [formally known as the Family Independence Agency] policies are found in the State Emergency Relief Manual ("ERM").


State Emergency Relief ("SER") prevents serious harm to individuals and families by assisting applicants with safe, decent, affordable housing and other essential needs when an emergency situation arises. ERM 101, p. 1. Department Policy dictates what verifications are required: VERIFICATION OF NEED AND COST OF THE EMERGENCY Verify actual or threatened shutoff or need for reconnection of natural gas or electricity by contact with the utility company. Contact can be in the form of a written notice, telephone call, fax, email or information on the provider's secure website. ERM 301.

In the present case, Claimant applied for assistance with a power bill. The application was denied because the Department could not verify actual or threatened shut off. ERM 301. This was the determination made by the Department, and it is correct. Claimant testified that her father's guardian was supposed to send the verifications, but presented no proof that verifications were sent. Additionally, the power bill was in Claimant's father's name and he was not residing in the household, so the application would have been denied on that basis had the verifications been provided.

#### DECISION AND ORDER

This Administrative Law Judge decides that the Department was correct in the denial of SER benefits, and it is ORDERED that the Department's decision in this regard be and is hereby AFFIRMED.

/s/

  
Aaron McClintic  
Administrative Law Judge  
For Ismael Ahmed, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: September 15, 2010

Date Mailed: September 15, 2010

**NOTICE:** Administrative Hearings may order a rehearing or reconsideration on either its own motion or at the request of a party within 30 days of the mailing date of this Decision and Order. Administrative Hearings will not order a rehearing or reconsideration on the Department's motion where the final decision cannot be implemented within 90 days of the filing of the original request.

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The Claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the mailing of the Decision and Order or, if a timely request for rehearing was made, within 30 days of the receipt date of the rehearing decision.

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