

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 201010292  
Issue No.: 5032  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Load No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: October 11, 2010  
Wayne 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 October 11, 2010. The Claimant appeared and testified. [REDACTED], FIM and [REDACTED], ES appeared on behalf of the Department.

ISSUE

Was the Department correct in determining Claimant's State Emergency Relief eligibility?

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 14, 2009 seeking assistance with moving expenses, security deposit, and rent.
- (2)
- (3) Claimant paid expense related to his move with a credit card prior the application being processed.
- (4) Claimant's application for SER was denied on October 19, 2010 because the emergency had been resolved.
- (5) Claimant requested a hearing on November 9, 2009 contesting the denial of SER benefits.

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

SER applicants must:

- Complete the application process.
- Meet financial and non-financial requirements.
- Have an emergency which threatens health or safety and can be resolved through issuance of SER.
- Take action within their ability to help themselves, i.e. obtain potential resources and/or apply for assistance.
- Not have caused the emergency (see [ERM 204](#), Client-Caused Emergencies).
- Cooperate in providing information about income, assets, living arrangements, and other persons living in the home.

Deny SER services for applicants who fail to meet any of the above requirements. ERM 101 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.

In the present case, Claimant paid the expenses related to his move with a credit card prior to his SER application being processed. Claimant acknowledged this at hearing. Therefore the Department’s denial of State Emergency Relief due to the emergency being resolved is proper and correct. ERM 101. Claimant argued that he maxed out his credit cards by using them to cover his expenses and that he had no choice but to do so prior to the application being processed. This Administrative Law Judge sympathizes with Claimant’s predicament but the Department did act in accordance with Department policy.

### 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.

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

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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Date Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

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.

AM/hw

cc:

