

STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF: [REDACTED]

Claimant

Reg. No.: 2010-686
Issue No.: 5016
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Load No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date:
November 5, 2009
Wayne County DHS (43)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Aaron McClintic

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge upon pursuant to MCL 400. 9; MCL 400.37 upon claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice a telephone hearing was held on November 5, 2009 claimant was present and testified, [REDACTED] ES appeared for the department and testified.

ISSUE

Is the department correct in denying claimant's SER application because payment would not resolve the emergency?

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 on September 25, 2009.
- (2) On May 22, 2009 claimant's application for SER was denied because the utility payment would not restore service.
- (3) Claimant owes \$14,766.30 to DTE.

- (4) Partial payment to DTE would not have restored service to the claimant.
- (5) Claimant requested a hearing on September 25, 2009 protesting the denial of SER.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

SER BENEFITS

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”).

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. Payment of an arrearage to maintain or restore service for the following utilities: water, sewer or cooking gas. The payment must restore or continue service for at least 30 days at the current residence. ERM 302

In the present case, claimant’s application for SER relocation services was denied because payment would not restore service and resolve the emergency. ERM 302 Claimant owed over \$14,000 to DTE and the department would have only been able to pay \$1100 and this would not have restored utility service. ERM 302 The Department was correct in determining that claimant was not eligible for utility payment through the state emergency relief program.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law 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.



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

Date Signed: 11/23/09

Date Mailed: 11/23/09

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 receipt 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/jlg

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