

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 20108019  
Issue No.: 5018  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Load No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: September 8, 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 September 8, 2010. The Claimant appeared and testified. [REDACTED], FIM 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 in September 2009.
- (2) Claimant's application for SER was denied on September 23, 2009 because shelter was not affordable.
- (3) Claimant receives \$674 in social security benefits.
- (4) Claimant's mortgage payment is \$1226.77.
- (5) Claimant requested a hearing on September 30, 2009 contesting the determination 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’ [formerly 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 defines affordability: Deny SER if the group does not have sufficient income to meet their total housing obligation. The total housing obligation cannot exceed 75% of the group's total net countable income. ERM 207.

In the present case, Claimant receives \$674 in social security benefits. Claimant’s monthly mortgage payment was \$1226.97. Claimant had past due balance of \$3746.97 at the time of application.  $1226.97/674 = 182\%$ . Claimant total housing obligation far exceeds Claimant’s net countable income. ERM 207. Therefore the Department’s denial of State Emergency Relief due to lack of affordability is proper and correct. Claimant testified that her mortgage payment has been lowered and her income has increased. It was explained that this decision would be based on Claimant’s circumstances at the time of determination. Claimant has the opportunity to reapply and she may be eligible based on her current circumstances.

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/



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

Date Signed: September 16, 2010

Date Mailed: September 16, 2010

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**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:

