

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 20138519  
Issue No.: 5100  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: April 11, 2013  
County: Wayne DHS (76)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Christian Gardocki

**HEARING DECISION**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 following Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on April 11, 2013 from Detroit, Michigan. Participants included the above-named claimant. Participants on behalf of Department of Human Services (DHS) included [REDACTED], Specialist, and [REDACTED], Supervisor.

**ISSUE**

The issue is whether DHS properly denied Claimant's application for State Emergency Relief due to Claimant not having an emergency.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. On 10/12/12, Claimant applied for SER seeking help with an energy bill.
2. Along with the SER application, Claimant presented DHS with an energy bill dated 8/17/12 which stated that Claimant's service was in shut-off threat.
3. On 10/18/12, DHS verified that there was a medical hold on Claimant's energy bill.
4. On 10/18/12, DHS denied Claimant's SER application for failing to establish an emergency.
5. On 10/22/13, Claimant requested a hearing to dispute the application denial.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

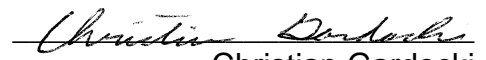
The State Emergency Relief (SER) program is established by 2004 PA 344. The SER program is administered pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and by, 1999 AC, Rule 400.7001 through Rule 400.7049. Department policies are found in the State Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

When the group's heat or electric service for their current residence is in threat of shutoff or is already shut off and must be restored, payment may be authorized to the enrolled provider. ERM 301 (2/2013), p. 1. DHS is to verify actual or threatened shutoff or the need for reconnection of natural gas or electricity, by contacting the energy company. *Id.*, p. 7.

In the present case, DHS denied Claimant's SER application based on a lack of emergency. In making the decision, DHS relied on information obtained from the energy service provider's website which stated there was a medical hold on Claimant's account; that information was current as of 10/18/12. Though Claimant presented DHS with a bill verifying that there was a shut-off threat to Claimant's energy service, the bill was nearly two months old. DHS properly relied on the more current information. Claimant conceded that there was a hold on her account as of 10/18/12. If there was a hold on Claimant's account, there was no immediate threat of shut-off to Claimant's service. Accordingly, Claimant did not have an emergency and DHS properly denied the SER application.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that DHS properly denied Claimant's SER application due to Claimant's lack of emergency. The actions taken by DHS are AFFIRMED.

  
Christian Gardocki  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 4/17/2013

Date Mailed: 4/17/2013

**NOTICE:** Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) 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. MAHS 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. (60 days for FAP cases)

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.

Claimant may request a rehearing or reconsideration for the following reasons:

- A rehearing **MAY** be granted if there is newly discovered evidence that could affect the outcome of the original hearing decision.
- A reconsideration **MAY** be granted for any of the following reasons:
  - misapplication of manual policy or law in the hearing decision,
  - typographical errors, mathematical error, or other obvious errors in the hearing decision that effect the substantial rights of the claimant:
  - the failure of the ALJ to address other relevant issues in the hearing decision.

Request must be submitted through the local DHS office or directly to MAHS by mail at  
Michigan Administrative Hearings  
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request  
P. O. Box 30639  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

CG/hw

cc:

