

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

██████████  
████████████████████  
████████████████████

Reg. No.: 2014-8063  
Issue No.: 5007  
Case No.: ██████████  
Hearing Date: January 13, 2014  
County: Wayne (82-35)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Michael J. Bennane

**HEARING DECISION**

Following Claimant's request for a hearing, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 400.37; 7 CFR 273.15 to 273.18; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; 45 CFR 99.1 to 99.33; and 45 CFR 205.10. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on January 13, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████████

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly process Claimant's May 14, 2013, State Emergency Relief (SER) application?

**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 May 14, 2013, Claimant applied for SER for water or sewage, non-heat electricity, and natural gas heat.
2. On May 20, 2013, the Department sent Claimant a State Emergency Relief Decision Notice informing Claimant that it would pay certain bills after Claimant had made a copayment.
3. Subsequent to the State Emergency Relief Decision Notice, the Department informed Claimant that all copayments must be met before the Department is obligated to pay the Departmental portion.

4. On October 18, 2013, Claimant requested a hearing to protest the Department's position.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Department policies are contained in the Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Department of Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT), and Department of Human Services Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

The State Emergency Relief (SER) program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b. The SER program is administered by the Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) pursuant to MCL 400.10 and by Mich Admin Code, R 400.7001 through R 400.7049.

Here, the Department adamantly argued that a claimant must make all copayments when requesting multiple services before the Department can authorize any payments.

The Department requested assistance in making its decision from an individual attached to the energy and emergency services (SER program policy). The response to this request was that "ERM 208 clearly states that if all copayments aren't received, no payments will be released and the client will have to reapply."

In fact, ERM 208 clearly states the opposite.

"The group is not required to pay the copayment more than once during the 30-day authorization period. If multiple services are requested, the client is only required to pay the copayment on one service. However, the copayment must be paid before any other service is paid." ERM 208 (March 2013).

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department

- acted in accordance with Department policy when it .
- did not act in accordance with Department policy when it failed to follow policy outlined in ERM 208.
- failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it .

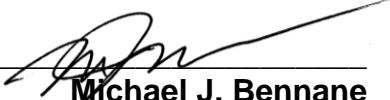
### **DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's decision is

- AFFIRMED.  
 REVERSED.  
 AFFIRMED IN PART with respect to \_\_\_\_\_ and REVERSED IN PART with respect to \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO BEGIN DOING THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Reregister and process Claimant's May 14, 2013, SER application, recalculate Claimant's copayments that were made and apply ERM 208 to the services that were requested by Claimant.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Michael J. Bennane**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: February 26, 2014

Date Mailed: February 26, 2014

**NOTICE OF APPEAL:** 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 or Reconsideration was made, within 30 days of the receipt date of the Decision and Order of Reconsideration or Rehearing Decision.

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).

A Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration may be granted when one of the following exists:

- Newly discovered evidence that existed at the time of the original hearing that could affect the outcome of the original hearing decision;
- Misapplication of manual policy or law in the hearing decision which led to a wrong conclusion;
- Typographical, mathematical or other obvious error in the hearing decision that affects the rights of the client;
- Failure of the ALJ to address in the hearing decision relevant issues raised in the hearing request.

The Department, AHR or the claimant must specify all reasons for the request. MAHS will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration. A request must be *received* in MAHS within 30 days of the date the hearing decision is mailed.

The written request must be faxed to (517) 335-6088 and be labeled as follows:

2014-8063/MJB

Attention: MAHS Rehearing/Reconsideration Request

If submitted by mail, the written request must be addressed as follows:

Michigan Administrative Hearings  
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request  
P.O. Box 30639  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

MJB/pf

cc: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]