

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 201435262  
Issue No.: 5001  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: June 11, 2014  
County: Muskegon County DHS

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Kevin Scully

**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 June 11, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

**ISSUE**

Whether the Department of Human Services (Department) properly denied the Claimant's State Emergency Relief (SER) application?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. On April 10, 2014, the Claimant applied for State Emergency Relief (SER) benefits requesting assistance with repairs to a furnace.
2. On April 17, 2014, the Department notified the Claimant that he is not eligible to receive assistance with furnace repairs because the home is not livable.
3. The Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing on April 18, 2014, protesting the denial of her State Emergency Relief (SER) application.

**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. Family Independence Agency (FIA or agency) policies are found in the State Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

Eligibility for the State Emergency Relief (SER) program requires that the home is in livable condition and payment will guarantee safe, sanitary shelter both now and in the future. The Department will not approve any home ownership services payments for homes that are not in a livable condition or cannot be brought to a livable condition within the remaining SER home repair limit. Department of Human Services Emergency Relief Manual (BEM) 304 (October 1, 2013), p 4.

On April 10, 2014, the Claimant applied for State Emergency Relief (SER) benefits requesting assistance with repairs to a furnace. On April 17, 2014, the Department determined that Claimant's home is not in livable condition and denied her State Emergency Relief (SER) application.

The Department presented documentation from the City of Muskegon showing that the home does not meet current housing code requirements. The Claimant failed to establish that the home has been approved for occupancy or that it will be in livable condition upon the repair of the furnace. The Claimant has the burden of establishing eligibility to receive benefits, which in this case would require evidence showing that the home has been approved for occupancy.

Based on the evidence and testimony available during the hearing, the Department has established that it was acting in accordance with policy when it denied the Claimant's State Emergency Relief (SER) application.

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 denied the Claimant's State Emergency Relief (SER) application.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.



Kevin Scully  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura D. Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: June 18, 2014

Date Mailed: June 19, 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:

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

KS/hj

cc:

