

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-013903  
Issue No.: 5001  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: December 04, 2014  
County: WAYNE-DISTRICT 15

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Susan C. Burke**

**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 December 4, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Claimant's application for State Emergency Relief (SER)?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. Claimant applied for SER on [REDACTED].
2. On [REDACTED], the Department denied Claimant's request.
3. Claimant requested a hearing on [REDACTED].
4. The Department did not present Claimant's application for examination at the hearing.

## **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 Mich Admin Code, R 400.7001 through R 400.7049.

ERM 304 (10/1/2013) p. 1 instructs that SER services may be provided for non-energy related home repairs.

Non-energy-related repairs include all home repairs for client owned housing except furnace repair or replacement.

Examples  
include:

Repairs to the basic structure.

Hot water heater.

Septic/waste disposal system.

Doors/windows.

Extermination services.

Electrical.

Plumbing.

Roofs.

Wells/water supply system.

Wheelchair ramps.

Authorization for payment is only made if the repair(s) is essential to remove a direct threat to health or safety or is required by law or a mobile home park regulation. The repair(s) must restore the home to a safe, livable condition.

In the present case, the Department did not present Claimant's application for SER for examination so that the Administrative Law Judge could make a determination as to what was being requested by Claimant and therefore if the Department was correct in its reasoning for its denial of Claimant's SER application.

In addition, the Department denied Claimant's SER application due in part to Claimant not being the owner/purchaser of a home. Claimant testified that she has a life-time lease, which apparently was not examined by the Department to determine whether this life-time lease met the condition of ERM 304, p. 4: "an SER group member is an owner

or purchaser of the home **or holds a life estate on the home** with the responsibility for home repairs.” (Emphasis added).

Furthermore, during the hearing, the Department representative testified that she was instructed by her superiors to deny the SER application and instruct Claimant to obtain assistance from FEMA. However, the Department representative did not provide written instructions from her superiors for examination by this Administrative Law Judge.

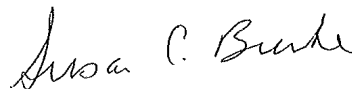
The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it denied Claimant’s SER application.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department’s decision is **REVERSED**.

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. Reinstatement and reprocess Claimant’s SER application of [REDACTED].
2. Issue a new written SER decision notice to Claimant.



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**Susan C. Burke**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: **12/9/2014**

Date Mailed: **12/9/2014**

SCB / hw

**NOTICE OF APPEAL:** A party may appeal this Hearing Decision in the circuit court in the county in which he/she resides, or the circuit court in Ingham County, within 30 days of the receipt date.

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Hearing Decision from the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) within 30 days of the mailing date of this Hearing Decision, or MAHS **MAY** order a rehearing or reconsideration on its own motion.

MAHS **MAY** grant a party's Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration 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 party requesting a rehearing or reconsideration 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 this Hearing Decision is mailed.

A written request may be faxed or mailed to MAHS. If submitted by fax, 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 48909-8139

cc:

