

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-019143  
Issue No.: 5001  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: February 11, 2015  
County: Calhoun

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Vicki Armstrong

**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, an in-person hearing was held on February 11, 2015, from Battle Creek, Michigan. Claimant personally appeared and testified. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included Eligibility Specialists' [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly process Claimant's request for State Emergency Relief (SER) assistance with utility/energy services?

**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 December 1, 2014, Claimant applied for SER assistance with utility/energy services.
2. On December 23, 2014, the Department sent Claimant the SER Decision Notice.
3. On December 23, 2014, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting the SER decision.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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. Department policies are found in the Department of Human Services State Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

In this case, the Department processed and granted Claimant's 12/1/2014, SER application and provided proof it paid the [REDACTED] the \$ [REDACTED]. Claimant contends the Department did not pay the \$ [REDACTED] which resulted in an additional charge to him of a \$ [REDACTED] reconnection fee. Claimant requests the Department pay both the \$ [REDACTED] and the additional \$ [REDACTED] reconnection fee to the [REDACTED] as Claimant did not cause the additional \$ [REDACTED] reconnection fee.

During the hearing, this Administrative Law Judge contacted the Treasurer of the [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], who testified that the \$ [REDACTED] for Claimant's utility bill was not received from the Department, and hence Claimant was billed an additional \$ [REDACTED] reconnection fee.

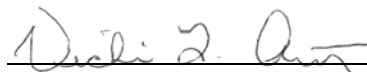
The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it issued its SER Decision Notice.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's SER 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. Redetermine Claimant's SER eligibility in accord with policy and work with the [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] to determine if the original \$ [REDACTED] was misapplied, and if so, have it applied correctly to Claimant's account with the \$ [REDACTED] reconnection fee waived if possible, if in fact it was the [REDACTED] error in processing the payment of \$ [REDACTED].



**Vicki Armstrong**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Nick Lyon, Interim Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: **3/2/2015**

Date Mailed: **3/2/2015**

VLA/las

**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:

