

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 2014-29660  
Issue No(s): 5001  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: April 14, 2014  
County: Wayne 19

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Robert J. Chavez

**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 14, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], ES.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly process Claimant's request for State Emergency Relief (SER) assistance with shelter 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 February 4, 2014, Claimant applied for SER assistance with shelter emergency.
2. On February 4, 2014, the Department sent Claimant an SER Decision Notice.
3. On February 18, 2014, Claimant/Claimant's Authorized Hearing Representative (AHR) filed a hearing request, protesting the Department's 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).

Additionally, ERM 208, states that the Department must deny SER if the group asset and income copayment, plus the required shortfall payments, exceed the amount needed to resolve the emergency.

Claimant did not dispute the income used by the Department, nor the amount needed to resolve the emergency. Claimant's entire dispute was with the amount the Department alleged was needed to resolve the emergency.

In support of a lower amount, claimant submitted a letter and a judgment that was created more than a week after the Department made the decision in question.

The Department made their decision based on a submitted court complaint provided by the Department.

In general, the undersigned makes decisions based on the information the Department had, or should have had, at the time they made the decision in question.

Given that the newly submitted information was not even in existence at the time the Department made their decision, and given that the information the Department relied upon is of the type normally relied upon, in addition to being submitted by the claimant, the Administrative Law Judge rules that the Department was correct to rely upon the information in question, and no error was made.


Furthermore, it should be noted that, had the Department relied on a lower amount, the SER application in question was even more likely to be denied; the denial was not based on affordability, but rather that claimant's income and shortfall payments exceeded the past due rent. In the current case, a lower amount needed to resolve the emergency would not have helped claimant..

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 issued its SER Decision Notice.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's SER decision is  AFFIRMED.

  
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**Robert J. Chavez**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: April 29, 2014

Date Mailed: April 29, 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

RJC/tm

cc:

