



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM  
Christopher Seppanen  
Executive Director

SHELLY EDGERTON  
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: April 25, 2016  
MAHS Docket No.: 16-001044  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

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

**HEARING DECISION**

Following Petitioner'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; and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on April 7, 2016, from Detroit, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by [REDACTED], Assistance Payments Worker.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's application for SER burial benefits?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. Petitioner applied for SER benefits on December 1, 2015.
2. On December 1, 2015, the application in question was denied.
3. On February 3, 2016, Petitioner requested a hearing.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Department policies are contained in the Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Department of Health and Human Services Reference

Tables Manual (RFT), and Department of Health and 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 Department of Human Services) pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.7001-.7049.

An application for SER burial benefits must be made no later than 10 business days after the burial or cremation. ERM 306, pg. 1 (2015).

The cremation in question occurred on November 6, 2015. The application was therefore more than 10 business days after the cremation, and was thus properly denied.

While Petitioner alleged that they had submitted an application by mail on October 15, 2015, no evidence of that application was presented, despite allegations of the existence of the evidence and more than two months of time to secure this evidence. Petitioner's representative offered no good reason for failing to secure the evidence in this ample amount of time. As such, the undersigned holds that there is no evidence for Petitioner's claim of a timely, lost 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 SER application in question.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

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

RC/tm



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**Robert J. Chavez**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Nick Lyon, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

**NOTICE OF APPEAL**: A party may appeal this Order in circuit court within 30 days of the receipt date. A copy of the circuit court appeal must be filed with the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS).

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Order if the request is received by MAHS within 30 days of the date the Order was issued. The party requesting a rehearing or reconsideration must provide the specific reasons for the request. MAHS will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration.

A written request may be mailed or faxed to MAHS. If submitted by fax, the written request must be faxed to (517) 335-6088; 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:



**DHHS**

Clarence Collins  
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**Petitioner**

[REDACTED]

**Authorized Hearing Rep.**

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Detroit, MI  
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cc:

[REDACTED]