



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 26, 2016
MAHS Docket No.: 16-001360
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Gary Heisler

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 March 29, 2016, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner was represented by his son [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The Department was represented by Eligibility Specialist [REDACTED] and Family Independence Manager [REDACTED]. Testimony was received from all participants. Department's Exhibit A, pages 1-8 was admitted into evidence.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's January 15, 2016, State Emergency Relief (SER) application for burial 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 January 5, 2016, Petitioner passed away.
2. On January 8, 2016, Petitioner was cremated.
3. On January 11, 2016, Petitioner's son, [REDACTED] paid the funeral home bill in full.
4. On January 15, 2016, Petitioner's son, [REDACTED] submitted a State Emergency Relief (SER) application for burial services.

5. On January 15, 2016, the Department issued a State Emergency Relief Decision Notice (DHS-1419) denying the application based on the fact that the cost had already been paid.
6. On January 27, 2016, Petitioner's son, [REDACTED] submitted a hearing request.

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.

State Emergency Relief Manual (ERM) 306 Burials (10-1-2015) at page 9, under Verification states:

The case record must contain a statement of goods and services or the equivalent showing an itemization of all services provided, charges and payments made or expected. It must be signed by an employee of the funeral home and the person making the SER application. Funeral providers may submit more than one invoice to cover a decedent's funeral.

Note: Do not duplicate payment or authorize payment for services/items not included on the invoice.

Petitioner's son testified that he paid the bill in order to get his father's remains but he did not think that would prevent getting assistance with the cost. He also testified that he put the payment on a credit card and cannot afford the payment. The scope of authority delegated to this Administrative Law Judge pursuant to a written directive signed by the Department of Human Services Director, which states:

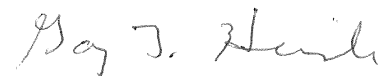
Administrative Law Judges have no authority to make decisions on constitutional grounds, overrule statutes, overrule promulgated regulations or overrule or make exceptions to the department policy set out in the program manuals.

Furthermore, administrative adjudication is an exercise of executive power rather than judicial power, and restricts the granting of equitable remedies. *Michigan Mutual Liability Co. v Baker*, 295 Mich 237; 294 NW 168 (1940); *Auto-Owners Ins Co v Elchuk*, 103 Mich App 542, 303 NW2d 35 (1981); *Delke v Scheuren*, 185 Mich App 326, 460 NW2d 324 (1990), and *Turner v Ford Motor Company*, unpublished opinion per curium of the Court of Appeals issued March 20, 2001 (Docket No. 223082).

While Petitioner's son made an unfortunate mistake, the Department's policy clearly precludes payment of expenses that have already been paid. 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 Petitioner's January 15, 2016, State Emergency Relief (SER) application for burial services.

DECISION AND ORDER

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



GH/nr

Gary Heisler
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

DHHS

[REDACTED]

Petitioner

[REDACTED]