



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

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

MIKE ZIMMER  
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: April 7, 2016  
MAHS Docket No.: 16-001615  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jacquelyn A. McClinton**

### **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 4, 2016, from Detroit, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by Petitioner. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Brenda Drewnicki, Hearing Facilitator.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's application for SER 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. On January 22, 2016, Petitioner applied for State Emergency Relief relating to his property taxes and his water bill.
2. On January 26, 2016, the Department sent a State Emergency Relief Decision Notice notifying Petitioner that his application had been denied.
3. On February 4, 2016, Petitioner filed a Request for Hearing disputing the Department's actions.

## 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.

Additionally, SER helps to prevent loss of a home if no other resources are available and the home will be available to provide safe shelter for the SER group in the foreseeable future. ERM 304 (October 2015), p. 1. Home ownership services payments are only issued to save a home threatened with loss due to:

- Mortgage foreclosure.
- Land contract forfeiture.
- Tax foreclosure or sale.
- Court-ordered eviction of a mobile home from land or a mobile home park.
- Repossession for failure to meet an installment loan payment for a mobile home. ERM 304, pp. 1-2.

In this case, Petitioner acknowledged that although his 2015 property taxes are past due, his home was not in foreclosure at the time of his SER application and was not subject to a tax sale. As such, Petitioner did not meet the necessary requirement to allow payment of his property taxes.

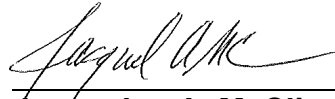
SER helps to restore or prevent shut off of a utility service specified in this item when service is necessary to prevent serious harm to SER group members. ERM 302 (October 2013), p. 1. Under Department policy, payment of an arrearage to maintain or restore service for the following utilities: water, sewer or cooking gas. The payment must restore or continue service for at least 30 days at the current residence. However, payments for current charges are not allowed. *Id.* Petitioner testified that he did not receive a water shut off notice. At the time of the hearing, Petitioner was unable to provide any documentation to demonstrate that his water was in danger of shut off. Accordingly, it is found that Petitioner did not meet the necessary requirement to allow payment of his water bill.

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 SER application.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

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

JM/hw



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**Jacquelyn A. McClinton**  
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**

Linda Ruemenapp  
21885 Dunham Road  
Clinton Twp., MI 48306

BSC4-HearingDecisions  
SER

**Petitioner**

