



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: May 4, 2016  
MAHS Docket No.: 16-004167  
Agency No.: [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 27, 2016, from Detroit, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by herself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist, [REDACTED], Family Independence Specialist, and [REDACTED], Family Independence Manager.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly close Petitioner's Family Independence Program(FIP) benefits due to failure to return verification of SSI application?

### **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 was an FIP recipient.
2. On January 11, 2016, Petitioner was sent a DHS-1551, Notice to Apply, that requested Petitioner file an SSI application to have continued eligibility for the FIP program and to provide evidence of the same.
3. Petitioner provided evidence, but the evidence was rejected by DDS despite being accepted by the Department.

4. The evidence provided to the Department was not submitted for review.
5. On March 8, 2016, Petitioner's FIP benefits were closed effective April 1, 2016, for failure to provide verification of SSI application.
6. On March 24, 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 Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-193, and 42 USC 601 to 679c. The Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers FIP pursuant to 45 CFR 233-260, MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101-.3131.

In this case, all parties agreed that Petitioner had submitted verification.

While the Department contested that the verification was not adequate, the Department failed to articulate or show why the verification in question was not adequate, nor did the Department enclose the verification in question in the evidence packet for the undersigned to rule as to its adequacy.

Therefore, the undersigned is unable to make a determination as to whether Petitioner's submitted verification was adequate.

Per policy in BAM 130, a client is to make a good-faith attempt to return verification; as all parties agree that Petitioner returned verification, there is no question that Petitioner was cooperating with the Department request.

Therefore, as Petitioner was cooperating, and as the undersigned cannot make a determination as to whether the verification in question was adequate, the undersigned must hold that the Department has failed to meet its burden of proof in showing that the Petitioner did not return proper verification, and that the case was therefore properly closed.

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 closed Petitioner's FIP case.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's 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. Reinstate Petitioner's FIP case retroactive to the date of negative action.

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

DHHS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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