



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: February 8, 2019  
MAHS Docket No.: 18-012439  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Carmen G. Fahie

**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; 42 CFR 438.400 to 438.424; 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 January 9, 2019, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by herself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Laurie Williams, Family Independence Manager.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's application for Family Independence Program (FIP)?

**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 [REDACTED] 2018, Petitioner applied for FIP.
2. On October 22, 2018, Petitioner submitted school documents that were blurry and illegible. Department Exhibit 1, pgs. 6-9.
3. On November 5, 2018, the Department Caseworker informed Petitioner that the school documents received were too blurry to read and requested that the Petitioner resubmit the documents where she said that she would resubmit, but to date no additional school verifications have been received.

4. On November 13, 2018, the Department Caseworker sent Petitioner a Notice of Case Action, DHS-1605, that her FIP application was denied because of verification of school attendance was not returned. Department Exhibit 1, pgs. 6-9.

### **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, Petitioner applied for FIP on September 27, 2018. She submitted verifications timely through the ECF, but the Department Caseworker could not read them. Although the Department gave her an opportunity to resubmit, Petitioner did not because she thought that the verifications submitted were legible. As a result, the Department denied her application on November 13, 2018. BEM 245. ERM 101 and 103.

During the hearing, Petitioner stated that she brought the school verifications with her to the hearing. The FIM reviewed them and testified that they were readable. Petitioner stated that she looked on the ECF and she could read the documents clearly. She didn't understand why the Department Caseworker was having a problem. When she saw the verifications printed by the Department, she understood that they were not legible. Since this was just a misunderstanding, the Administrative Law Judge is going to reverse the Department denial of the September 27, 2018, FIP application.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**


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 Petitioner's September 27, 2018 FIP application for failure to provide legible copies of school verification.

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. Initiate a redetermination of Petitioner's eligibility for FIP based on her application submitted to the Department on [REDACTED] 2018, and the school verifications submitted at the hearing.
2. Based on policy, the Department should provide Petitioner with written notification of the Department's revised eligibility determination and issue Petitioner any retroactive benefits she may be eligible to receive, if any.

CF/hb



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**Carmen G. Fahie**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Robert Gordon, 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) 763-0155; 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**

Tara Roland 82-17  
8655 Greenfield  
Detroit, MI 48228

Wayne County (District 17), DHHS

BSC4 via electronic mail

B. Cabanaw via electronic mail

G. Vail via electronic mail

**Petitioner**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]