



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
MICHIGAN OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

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

Date Mailed: July 19, 2019  
MOAHR Docket No.: 19-006352  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Jeffrey Kemm

### **HEARING DECISION**

Following Petitioner's request for a hearing, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9, 7 CFR 273.15, and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on July 17, 2019, from Lansing, Michigan. [REDACTED], Petitioner, appeared and represented herself. Mark Boyd, Family Independence Manager, appeared for the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). Neither party had any additional witnesses.

One exhibit was admitted into evidence during the hearing. A 10-page packet of documents provided by the Department was admitted collectively as the Department's Exhibit A.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly terminate Petitioner's Food Assistance Program (FAP) 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 May 24, 2019, the Department mailed a verification checklist to Petitioner to obtain information to review her eligibility and reinstate her FAP benefits. The verification checklist instructed Petitioner to provide verification of her residential address, loss of employment, and identity by June 3, 2019. The verification checklist was not returned to the Department as undeliverable.

2. Petitioner did not respond to the Department's verification checklist. Petitioner did not provide the requested verifications by the due date nor did Petitioner request an extension of time.
3. On June 18, 2019, the Department mailed a notice of case action to Petitioner to notify her that her FAP benefits were terminated effective May 20, 2019, because she did not provide requested verifications.
4. On June 17, 2019, Petitioner filed a hearing request to dispute the Department's decision.

### **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 Food Assistance Program (FAP) [formerly known as the Food Stamp program] is established by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, 7 USC 2011 to 2036a and is implemented by the federal regulations contained in 7 CFR 273. The Department administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001-.3011.

The Department terminated Petitioner's FAP benefits due to her failure to provide requested verification. The Department must tell a client what verification is required, how to obtain it, and the due date. BAM 130 (April 1, 2017), p. 3. The Department must allow the client 10 calendar days to provide requested verification. *Id.* at 7. Verifications must be received by the Department by the due date in order to be considered timely. *Id.* The Department must send a Negative Action Notice when either (a) the client indicates a refusal to provide a verification or (b) the due date lapses and the client has not made a reasonable effort to provide verifications. *Id.*

The Department sent Petitioner a verification checklist which instructed Petitioner what verification was required, how to obtain it, and the due date. The verification checklist was sent to Petitioner's current address, and it was not returned as undeliverable. It was Petitioner's responsibility to obtain the requested verification and to make sure the Department received it by the due date. Petitioner did not provide the requested verification by the due date, so the Department properly issued a notice of case action which terminated Petitioner's FAP benefits due to her failure to provide the requested verification.

**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 did act in accordance with its policies and the applicable law when it terminated Petitioner's FAP benefits effective May 20, 2019.

IT IS ORDERED the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.

JK/hb



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**Jeffrey Kemm**  
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 Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR).

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Order if the request is received by MOAHR 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. MOAHR will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration.

A written request may be mailed or faxed to MOAHR. If submitted by fax, the written request must be faxed to (517) 763-0155; Attention: MOAHR Rehearing/Reconsideration Request.

If submitted by mail, the written request must be addressed as follows:

Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules  
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request  
P.O. Box 30639  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8139

**Department Representative**

Office of Child Support (OCS)-MDHHS  
201 N Washington Square  
Lansing, MI 48933

**DHHS**

Richard Latimore  
4733 Conner  
Detroit, MI 48215

Wayne County (District 57), DHHS

BSC4 via electronic mail

M. Holden via electronic mail

D. Sweeney via electronic mail

**Petitioner**

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