



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: March 4, 2020
MOAHR Docket No.: 20-000646
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Kevin Scully

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. After due notice, telephone hearing was held on February 27, 2020, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner was represented by herself. The Department was represented by Tonja Boyd.

ISSUE

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly deny Petitioner's application for State Emergency Relief (SER) assistance?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. Department records indicate that the Department determined that Petitioner was noncooperative with the Office of Child Support on March 30, 2018. Exhibit A, p 10 and 24.
2. On March 31, 2018, the Department notified Petitioner that she was she was disqualified from the Food Assistance Program (FAP). Exhibit A, pp 11-12.
3. On June 20, 2019, the Department notified Petitioner that she was not eligible for State Emergency Relief (SER) assistance. Exhibit A, pp 7-8.
4. On [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 2020, the Department received Petitioner's application for State Emergency Relief (SER) assistance. Exhibit A, pp 3-4.

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.

Families are strengthened when children's needs are met. Parents have a responsibility to meet their children's needs by providing support and/or cooperating with the department, including the Office of Child Support (OCS), the Friend of the Court (FOC) and the prosecuting attorney to establish paternity and/or obtain support from an absent parent. The custodial parent or alternative caretaker of children must comply with all requests for action or information needed to establish paternity and/or obtain child support on behalf of children for whom they receive assistance, unless a claim of good cause for not cooperating has been granted or is pending. Failure to cooperate without good cause results in disqualification. Disqualification includes member removal, as well as denial or closure of program benefits. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 255 (January 1, 2020), pp 1-2.

When an SER group member has been denied or terminated assistance for failure to comply, when able, with a procedural requirement of FIP, SDA or SSI, the group is not eligible for SER. Groups that are non-cooperative with the Office of Child Support are also ineligible for SER. SER ineligibility continues as long as the group member fails or refuses to pursue potential resources. Sanctioned groups that are able to comply are ineligible for SER until they comply. Department of Health and Human Services Emergency Relief Manual (ERM) 203 (October 1, 2018), p 2.

On January 17, 2020, the Department received Petitioner's request for a hearing protesting the denial of SER assistance. Petitioner has been found to be noncooperative with efforts of the Office of Child Support to identify and locate the absent parent of her child. As long as Petitioner is noncooperative with the Office of Child Support, she is not eligible for any SER benefits.

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 (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001-.3011.

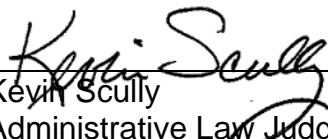
Petitioner is entitled to a hearing protesting the current level of FAP benefits, but her request for a hearing is untimely with respect to the March 31, 2018, finding of noncooperation with the Office of Child Support. Therefore, Petitioner remains eligible for FAP benefits as a household consisting of her children, but she will remain disqualified from the FAP group until she cooperates with the Office of Child Support.

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 application for State Emergency Relief (SER) assistance and disqualified her from the Food Assistance Program (FAP).

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

KS/nr



Kevin Scully
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

DHHS

Denise McCoggle
27260 Plymouth Rd
Redford, MI
48239

Wayne 15 County DHHS- via electronic
mail

BSC4- via electronic mail

M. Holden- via electronic mail

D. Sweeney- via electronic mail

T. Bair- via electronic mail

E. Holzhausen- via electronic mail

Dept. Contact

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

Petitioner

[REDACTED] - via first class mail
[REDACTED], MI
[REDACTED]