



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: September 23, 2019
MOAHR Docket No.: 19-008026
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 September 19, 2019, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner, [REDACTED], appeared and represented herself. Respondent, Department of Health and Human Services (Department), had Mary Jo Bagley, Eligibility Specialist, appear on its behalf. The Department also had Jeffrey Robinson, Family Independence Manager, appear as a witness.

One exhibit was admitted into evidence during the hearing. A 28-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 June 14, 2019, the Department mailed a verification checklist to Petitioner to obtain information to review her eligibility. The verification checklist instructed Petitioner to provide verification of her household income and copies of her Federal income tax return by June 24, 2019. The Department mailed two verification of asset forms to Petitioner, which instructed Petitioner to provide verification of her [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] accounts by June 24, 2019. The Department mailed a shelter verification request, which instructed Petitioner to provide verification of her household expenses by June 24, 2019.

2. On June 24, 2019, Petitioner responded to the Department's requests. Petitioner returned one verification of asset form regarding [REDACTED] in which she wrote, "I don't have it." Petitioner did not respond to any of the Department's other requests. Petitioner did not respond to the Department's verification checklist.
3. On June 30, 2019, the Department mailed a notice of case action to Petitioner to notify her that her FAP benefits were terminated because she did not provide requested verifications.
4. On July 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) 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 verifications. 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.*

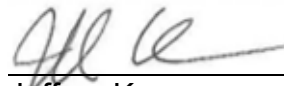
The Department sent Petitioner a verification checklist which instructed Petitioner what verification was required, how to obtain it, and the due date. It was Petitioner's responsibility to obtain the requested verification and to make sure the Department received it by the due date. Petitioner did not 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.

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

JK/nr



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

DHHS

Linda Gooden
25620 W. 8 Mile Rd
Southfield, MI
48033

Oakland 3 County DHHS- via electronic
mail

BSC4- via electronic mail

M. Holden- via electronic mail

D. Sweeney- via electronic mail

Petitioner

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the name and contact information of the petitioner.