



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

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

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]  
MI [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: September 10, 2019  
MOAHR Docket No.: 19-008585  
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 September 5, 2019, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner represented herself. The Department of Health and Human Services was represented by Shaumanique Bright and Fallon Myers of the Office of Child Support.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly deny Petitioner's application for 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 December 25, 2014, the Department requested that Petitioner cooperate with the Department's efforts to identify and locate the absent parent of her child. Exhibit A, pp 9-24.
2. On February 19, 2015, the Department notified Petitioner that it considered her to be noncooperative with the Office of Child Support. Exhibit A, p 30.
3. On July 22, 2019, the Department notified Petitioner that she was not eligible for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits as of August 1, 2019. Exhibit A, pp 5-8.
4. On August 8, 2019, the Department notified Petitioner that she was considered to be cooperative with the Office of Child Support. Exhibit A, p 31.
5. On August 8, 2019, the Department received Petitioner's request for a hearing. 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 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.

A request for hearing must be in writing and signed by the claimant, petitioner, or authorized representative. Rule 400.904(1). Moreover, the Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 600 (July 1, 2019), p. 6, provides in relevant part as follows:

The client or authorized hearing representative has 90 calendar days from the date of the written notice of case action to request a hearing. The request must be received anywhere in DHS within the 90 days.

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 (April 1, 2019), pp 1-2.

A disqualified member may indicate willingness to cooperate at any time, but a one-month disqualification is served when conditions to end the disqualification are not met prior to the negative action effective date. BEM 255, p 16.

On February 19, 2015, the Department sanctioned Petitioner for noncooperation with the Office of Child Support. Petitioner's August 8, 2019, request for a hearing is not timely with respect to the sanction for noncooperation with the Office of Child Support.

On July 22, 2019, the Department notified Petitioner that she was not eligible for FAP benefits due to the sanction for noncooperation with the Office of Child Support.

On August 8, 2019, the Department notified Petitioner that she was considered to be cooperative with the Office of Child Support. Petitioner remained to be disqualified from FAP for August of 2019, as directed by BEM, 255. Now that Petitioner has cooperated with the Office of Child Support, she is potentially eligible for FAP benefits in the future, assuming that she meets all other eligibility criteria.

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 Food Assistance Program (FAP) effective August 1, 2019.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

KS/hb

  
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**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

**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]