



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: February 9, 2023
MOAHR Docket No.: 22-006302
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Aaron McClintic

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 February 1, 2023, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by herself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Vera King. Patrick Dalton from the Office of Child Support also appeared and testified for the Department. Department Exhibit 1, pp. 1-30 was received and admitted.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine that Petitioner was noncooperative with the Office of Child Support?

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 October 10, 2022, a contact letter was sent to Petitioner from the Office of Child Support.
2. On October 16, 2022, Petitioner submitted a Child Support Response Form that states "I don't know" under additional information. (Ex. 1, p.23)
3. On November 6, 2022, a contact letter was sent to Petitioner from the Office of Child Support.
4. On December 3, 2022, Petitioner was sent a Notice of Case Action which informed her that her FAP benefits would be reduced to \$596 per month for a household of

3 after she was removed from the group for failing to cooperate with the Office of Child Support. (Ex. 1, pp. 7-11)

5. On December 13, 2022, Petitioner requested hearing disputing the reduction of FAP benefits. (Ex. 1, p.4)
6. On January 12, 2023, the Office of Child Support issued an Explanation of Noncooperation Determination Notice that states the Petitioner was placed in noncooperation on November 6, 2022, because "Client failed to provide verifiable identifying information for the father of her child [REDACTED] (Ex. 1, p. 15)
7. Petitioner testified at hearing that she has no additional information about the father of her child.

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).

COOPERATION

FIP, CDC Income Eligible, MA and FAP

Cooperation is a condition of eligibility. The following individuals who receive assistance on behalf of a child are required to cooperate in establishing paternity and obtaining support, unless good cause has been granted or is pending:

Grantee (head of household) and spouse.

Specified relative/individual acting as a parent and spouse.

Parent of the child for whom paternity and/or support action is required.

Cooperation is required in all phases of the process to establish paternity and obtain support. It includes **all** the following:

Contacting the support specialist when requested.

Providing all known information about the absent parent.

Appearing at the office of the prosecuting attorney when requested.

Taking any actions needed to establish paternity and obtain child support (including but not limited to testifying at hearings or obtaining genetic tests). BEM 255

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.

In this case, Petitioner testified that she has no information about the identity of the father of her child or information regarding where she met the father of her child or who may have been at the location. Petitioner testified that a paternity test was completed on the man who she believed may have been the father, but the test determined that he was not the father. Petitioner testified that she established paternity of her other children and if she had information, she would establish the paternity of [REDACTED]

Patrick Dalton from the Office of Child Support testified at hearing that Petitioner failed to disclose any information that could assist his office in establishing paternity and argued that Petitioner should have more information and needs to make a bigger effort to obtain information to assist the Department in establishing the paternity of her child.


Petitioner, when requested to provide information to assist in establishing the paternity of her child, flatly stated "I don't know" under additional information. Petitioner stated that she did speak to her sister and ask her if she remembered any details about the party they went to where Petitioner believes the child was conceived but her sister did not have any additional information. Petitioner should have some information about where the party took place, who was at the party, how she found out about the party and should be able to provide some description or identifying information about the man who fathered her child. Therefore, the Department determination that Petitioner failed to cooperate with the Office of Child Support is supported by the facts and evidence presented. BEM 255

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 found Petitioner in noncooperation with the Office of Child Support.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.

AM/nr



Aaron McClintic
Administrative Law Judge

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

Via-Electronic Mail :

Department Representative
Office of Child Support (OCS)-MDHHS
201 N Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48933
**MDHHS-OCS-Admin-
Hearings@michigan.gov**

Interested Parties
Monroe County DHHS
BSC4
OCS
M. Holden
D. Sweeney
MOAHR

DHHS
Pam Farnsworth
Monroe County DHHS
903 Telegraph
Monroe, MI 48161
**MDHHS-Monroe-
Hearings@michigan.gov**

Via-First Class Mail :

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