



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 7, 2023  
MOAHR Docket No.: 23-000373  
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 28, 2023, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by herself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Veronica Rumslog, AP Supervisor. Aretha Turner from the Office of Child Support also appeared and testified for the Department. Department Exhibit 1, pp. 1-41 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 November 26, 2021, Petitioner was found to be in noncooperation with the Office of Child Support.
2. On November 4, 2022, Notice of Case Action was sent to Petitioner informing her that she was eligible for FAP in the amount of \$163 for a group size of 1.
3. On January 18, 2023, Petitioner requested hearing disputing the determination of FAP benefits. (Ex. 1, p.4)
4. Petitioner credibly testified at hearing that she has no additional information about the father of her child.

5. Petitioner provided the name of a putative father and cooperated with genetic testing but that putative father was excluded.

### **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 credibly testified that she has no additional information about the identity of the father of her child. 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.

Aretha Turner from the Office of Child Support testified at hearing that Petitioner has not refused to provide any specific information requested of her. Therefore, the Department determination that Petitioner failed to cooperate with the Office of Child Support is not 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 did not act in accordance with Department policy when it found Petitioner in noncooperation 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 failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it determined that Petitioner failed to cooperate with the Office of Child Support.

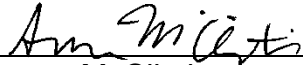
### **DECISION AND ORDER**

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

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO BEGIN DOING THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Delete the finding of noncooperation with the Office of Child Support and lift the sanction going back to the date of the hearing request.
2. Add Petitioner to the FAP group going back to the date Petitioner requested hearing.
3. Issue a supplement of FAP for any additional benefits owed to Petitioner.

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  
Lansing, MI 48933  
**MDHHS-OCS-Admin-  
Hearings@michigan.gov**

**Interested Parties**  
Kent County DHHS  
BSC3  
OCS  
M. Holden  
D. Sweeney  
MOAHR

**DHHS**  
Kimberly Kornoelje  
Kent County DHHS  
121 Franklin SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49507  
**MDHHS-Kent-  
Hearings@michigan.gov**

**Via-First Class Mail :**

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