

**Date Mailed:** July 1, 2025  
**Docket No.:** 25-016615  
**Case No.:** [REDACTED]  
**Petitioner:** [REDACTED]

### **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; and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. After due notice, a hearing was held via telephone conference on June 23, 2025. Petitioner appeared for the hearing and represented himself. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Jamila Goods, Eligibility Specialist.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly close Petitioner's Food Assistance Program (FAP) case?

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. Petitioner was an ongoing recipient of FAP benefits.
2. In connection with a redetermination, Petitioner's eligibility to receive FAP benefits was due for review.
3. On or around February 4, 2025, the Department sent Petitioner a redetermination for his FAP case that he was instructed to return by February 24, 2025. (Exhibit A, pp. 7-13)
4. Petitioner failed to return the redetermination and his FAP case closed automatically at the end of his benefit certification period on March 31, 2025.
5. On April 14, 2025, the Department received a completed redetermination from Petitioner. (Exhibit A, pp. 14-18)
6. On or around April 24, 2025, Petitioner requested a hearing disputing the Department's actions with respect to the FAP. (Exhibit A, pp. 3-5)

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## 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.

In this case, Petitioner requested a hearing on April 24, 2025, disputing the Department's actions with respect to his FAP case. Initially, Petitioner testified that his dispute was regarding the closure of his FAP case. However, later in the hearing, Petitioner asserted that he also disputed the reduction in his FAP benefits to \$163. The Department established that on December 7, 2024, the Department sent Petitioner a Notice of Case Action advising that effective January 1, 2025, his FAP benefits would be decreased to \$163. The Notice of Case Action further advised Petitioner that the Department must receive his request for hearing or appeal within 90 days of the notice date, or March 7, 2025. While Petitioner testified that he did not receive the Notice of Case Action, Petitioner had knowledge that his FAP benefits were reduced effective January 1, 2025. Petitioner did not request a hearing to dispute this action until April 24, 2025. Additionally, at the time of Petitioner's request for hearing, he was not a current recipient of FAP benefits and thus, the current amount of his FAP benefits cannot be addressed. Upon review, Petitioner's request for hearing to dispute the reduction in FAP benefits was not timely filed within 90 days of the December 7, 2024, Notice of Case Action and thus, cannot be addressed with this hearing decision and is therefore, dismissed for lack of jurisdiction. See BAM 600.

The closure of Petitioner's FAP case in connection with the redetermination is addressed below.

The Department must periodically redetermine or renew an individual's eligibility for active programs. The redetermination/renewal process includes a thorough review of all eligibility factors. Redetermination, renewal, semi-annual and mid-certification forms are often used to redetermine eligibility of active programs. BAM 210 (April 2025), p. 1. If a FAP client does not begin the redetermination process, the Department will allow the benefit period to expire. The redetermination process begins when the client files a: MDHHS-1171 Assistance Application and MDHHS FAP Supplement; DHS-1010 Redetermination and MDHHS 1010-FAP; or DHS-1171, Filing Form. BAM 210, pp. 3-4. For FAP cases, benefits stop at the end of the benefit period unless a redetermination is completed, verifications received, and a new benefit period is certified. BAM 210, pp. 2-

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5. If the redetermination packet is not logged in by the last working day of the redetermination month, Bridges will automatically close the FAP case without sending a Notice of Case Action. BAM 210, pp.13-14.

In this case, the Department representative testified that because Petitioner failed to timely submit a completed redetermination from Petitioner prior to the end of the March 31, 2025, certification period, his FAP case automatically closed and a notice of case action was not issued. The Department representative confirmed that on April 14, 2025, it received a redetermination from Petitioner; however, because the certification period had already ended, the redetermination could not be processed, and Petitioner was required to reapply for FAP benefits, which he did on April 23, 2025. See BAM 210, pp. 22-23. Petitioner confirmed that he received the redetermination and testified that he completed the form and sent it in to the Department via mail. Petitioner testified that he gave the redetermination to the mail carrier in his building to mail on his behalf. Petitioner could not recall the exact date that he mailed the redetermination form to the Department but testified that it appeared to have been signed by him on March 17, 2025. (Exhibit A, pp. 14-18).

Notwithstanding Petitioner's testimony, the evidence showed that the Department did not receive Petitioner's redetermination until April 14, 2025. Because Petitioner did not start the redetermination process prior to the end of the March 31, 2025, certification period, the Department properly closed his FAP case.

### **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 acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed Petitioner's FAP case effective March 31, 2025.

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

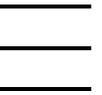
  
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**ZAINAB A. BAYDOUN**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE**

**APPEAL RIGHTS:** Petitioner may appeal this Hearing Decision to the circuit court. Rules for appeals to the circuit court can be found in the Michigan Court Rules (MCR), including MCR 7.101 to MCR 7.123, available at the Michigan Courts website at [courts.michigan.gov](https://courts.michigan.gov). The Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR) cannot provide legal advice, but assistance may be available through the State Bar of Michigan at <https://lrs.michbar.org> or Michigan Legal Help at <https://michiganlegalhelp.org>. A copy of the circuit court appeal should be sent to MOAHR. A circuit court appeal may result in a reversal of the Hearing Decision.

Either party who disagrees with this Hearing Decision may also send a written request for a rehearing and/or reconsideration to MOAHR within 30 days of the mailing date of this Hearing Decision. The request should include Petitioner's name, the docket number from page 1 of this Hearing Decision, an explanation of the specific reasons for the request, and any documents supporting the request. The request should be sent to MOAHR

- by email to [MOAHR-BSD-Support@michigan.gov](mailto:MOAHR-BSD-Support@michigan.gov), **OR**
- by fax at (517) 763-0155, **OR**
- by mail addressed to  
Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules  
Rehearing/Reconsideration Request  
P.O. Box 30639  
Lansing Michigan 48909-8139

Documents sent via email are not secure and can be faxed or mailed to avoid any potential risks. Requests MOAHR receives more than 30 days from the mailing date of this Hearing Decision may be considered untimely and dismissed.



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**Interested Parties**

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