



Date Mailed: June 13, 2025

Docket No.: 25-016785

Case No.: [REDACTED]

Petitioner: [REDACTED]

This is an important legal document. Please have someone translate the document.

هذه وثيقة قانونية مهمة. يرجى أن يكون هناك شخص ما يترجم المستند.

এটি একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ আইনি ডকুমেন্ট। দয়া করে কেউ দস্তাবেজ অনুবাদ করুন।

Este es un documento legal importante. Por favor, que alguien traduzca el documento.

这是一份重要的法律文件。请让别人翻译文件。

Ky është një dokument ligjor i rëndësishëm. Ju lutem, kini dikë ta përktheni dokumentin.

Date Mailed: June 13, 2025
Docket No.: 25-016785
Case No.: 116788448
Petitioner: JENNA C DAWSON

HEARING DECISION

On April 29, 2025, Petitioner [REDACTED] [REDACTED] requested a hearing to dispute public assistance benefits. As a result, a hearing was scheduled to be held on June 10, 2025. Public assistance hearings are held 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; 45 CFR 205.10; and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002.

The parties appeared for the scheduled hearing. Petitioner appeared with her authorized hearing representative, [REDACTED]. Respondent Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (Department) had Family Independence Manager Ryan Clemons appear as its representative. Neither party had any additional witnesses.

Respondent provided sworn testimony, and one exhibit was admitted into evidence. A 34-page packet of documents provided by the Department was admitted collectively as Exhibit A.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's Family Independence Program (FIP) eligibility?

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 July [REDACTED] 2024, Petitioner applied for FIP cash assistance from the Department.
2. On August [REDACTED] 2024, the Department mailed a FAST mandatory notice to Petitioner to notify her that she was required to complete FAST within 30 days.
3. The Department erroneously failed to give Petitioner 30 days to complete FAST.
4. On August [REDACTED] 2024, the Department mailed a notice of case action to Petitioner to notify her that her application for FIP cash assistance was denied.

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5. On April [REDACTED] 2025, the Department mailed a new FAST mandatory notice to Petitioner to notify her that she was required to complete FAST within 30 days.
 6. On April [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner completed the FAST requirement.
 7. On April [REDACTED] 2025, the Department mailed a notice of case action to Petitioner to notify her that she was approved for FIP cash assistance from August 16, 2024, through August 31, 2024, and for the month of September 2024.
 8. The Department did not approve Petitioner for FIP cash assistance effective August 16, 2024, and ongoing because she did not complete FAST as instructed on August 6, 2024.
 9. Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the Department's determination.
 10. The Department subsequently reviewed Petitioner's case and approved her for FIP cash assistance effective August 16, 2024, and ongoing.

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 Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-193, and 42 USC 601 to 679c. The Department administers FIP pursuant to 45 CFR 233-260, MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101-.3131.

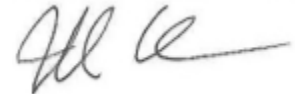
In this case, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute her FIP cash assistance because the Department only approved Petitioner for FIP cash assistance through September 2024. The Department acknowledged that this was an error. The Department was required to give Petitioner 30 days to complete her FAST. BEM 228 (April 1, 2025), pp. 2-3. The Department did not give Petitioner 30 days to complete her FAST because the Department denied Petitioner's application for FIP cash assistance before her 30 days had lapsed. The Department notified Petitioner of the FAST requirement on August 6, 2024, and the Department denied Petitioner's application for FIP cash assistance on August 29, 2024. Since the Department did not give Petitioner 30 days to complete her FAST, the Department did not act in accordance with BEM 228. Therefore, the Department's decision is reversed.

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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 not act in accordance with its policies and the applicable law when it determined Petitioner's FIP eligibility.

IT IS ORDERED that the Department's decision is **REVERSED**. The Department must approve Petitioner for FIP cash assistance effective August 2024, and ongoing. The Department must begin to implement this order within 10 days from the mailing date of this hearing decision.



JEFFREY KEMM
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. 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, **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

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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.

Via Electronic Mail:

Respondent
WASHTENAW COUNTY DHHS
22 CENTER ST
YPSILANTI, MI 48198
**MDHHS-WASHTENAW-
HEARINGS@MICHIGAN.GOV**

SANBORN B

BSC4HEARINGDECISIONS

Via First Class Mail:

Non-Attorney Representative

[REDACTED]

Petitioner

[REDACTED]

Authorized Hearing Rep

[REDACTED]