



Date Mailed: August 22, 2025

Docket No.: 25-025615

Case No.: [REDACTED]

Petitioner: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[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।

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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.

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Petitioner: [REDACTED]

HEARING DECISION

On July 14, 2025, Petitioner [REDACTED] requested a hearing to dispute a Family Independence Program (FIP) closure. As a result, a hearing was scheduled to be held on August 19, 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 and represented herself. Respondent Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (Department) had Eligibility Specialist Darcy Ingraham and Family Independence Specialist Isaac Colon appear as its representatives. There were no other participants.

Both parties provided sworn testimony, and one exhibit was admitted into evidence. A 111-page packet of documents provided by the Department was admitted into evidence collectively as Exhibit A.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close Petitioner's FIP cash assistance?

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 March [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner notified the Department that she obtained employment at [REDACTED].
2. On April [REDACTED] 2025, the Department mailed an employment verification form to Petitioner to obtain information about her employment to determine her FIP eligibility. The form instructed Petitioner to have her employer complete the form, and the form instructed Petitioner to return the completed form to the Department by April 14, 2025.
3. The Department did not receive the completed employment verification form by April 14, 2025.
4. On April [REDACTED] 2025, the Department issued a notice of case action to Petitioner to notify Petitioner that her FIP cash assistance closed effective May 1, 2025,

because Petitioner did not return the completed employment verification form by April 14, 2025.

5. On April █ 2025, Petitioner's employment at █ came to an end.
6. On April █ 2025, Petitioner notified the Department that she was terminated from her employment at █ because she input some numbers incorrectly.
7. On May █ 2025, the Department called █ and the person that the Department spoke with at █ stated that Petitioner quit her job. The Department determined that Petitioner was subject to a three-month sanction for refusing employment since she quit her job.
8. On May █ 2025, the Department mailed a non-compliance notice to Petitioner to notify her that she failed to participate in the required employment activity because she refused employment on April 28, 2025. The notice informed Petitioner that she was scheduled to meet with the Department on May 20, 2025, and she would have an opportunity to verify her reason(s) for non-compliance.
9. On May █ 2025, the Department mailed a notice of case action to Petitioner to notify Petitioner that her FIP cash assistance was closed effective May 1, 2025, and her FIP would remain closed for at least three months.
10. Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the Department's decision to close her FIP cash assistance.

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.

Petitioner is disputing the Department's decision to close her FIP cash assistance. The Department closed Petitioner's FIP cash assistance, effective May 1, 2025, because the Department determined that Petitioner refused to participate in a required employment activity when she refused employment. The issue here is whether the Department properly closed Petitioner's FIP cash assistance.

The Department requires FIP clients to participate in employment and self-sufficiency-related activities. BEM 233A (October 1, 2022), p. 1. The Department's focus is to assist clients in removing barriers so that they can participate in activities which lead to self-sufficiency. *Id.* There are consequences for clients who fail to participate in such activities without good cause. *Id.* A client who fails to participate in such activities is considered non-compliant. *Id.* at 2. A client who quits her job is considered to have refused employment. *Id.* at 3. This is considered non-compliance. *Id.* Based on the evidence presented, Petitioner quit her job at M46 Truck Stop. Therefore, Petitioner refused employment. Since Petitioner refused employment, the Department properly determined that Petitioner was non-compliant.

Since Petitioner was non-compliant, the Department was required to impose a consequence on Petitioner unless she established that she had good cause. Good cause is a valid reason for non-compliance with employment and/or self-sufficiency related activities that is based on factors that are beyond the control of the non-compliant person. *Id.* at 4. Petitioner did not present sufficient evidence to establish that she had good cause for her non-compliance. Therefore, the Department properly determined that it was required to impose a consequence on Petitioner.

The Department is required to impose a consequence of case closure for no less than three months for a FIP recipient's first occurrence of non-compliance. *Id.* at 8. This was Petitioner's first occurrence of non-compliance. Thus, the Department acted in accordance with BEM 233A when it closed Petitioner's FIP cash assistance for three months. Therefore, the Department's decision is affirmed.

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 its policies and the applicable law when it closed Petitioner's FIP cash assistance.

IT IS ORDERED that the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.



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

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

MONTCALM COUNTY DHHS
609 N STATE ST
STANTON, MI 48888
MDHHS-MONTCALM-
HEARINGS@MICHIGAN.GOV

Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]