



**Date Mailed:** February 20, 2026  
**Docket No.:** 25-047413  
**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।

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.

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**Case No.:** [REDACTED]

**Petitioner:** [REDACTED] [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 February 3, 2026. Petitioner appeared and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Rick Merrill, Hearing Facilitator. Department Exhibit 1, pp. 1-91 and Exhibit 2, pp. 1-5 were received and admitted.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's Family Independence Program (FIP) application for failing to verify school attendance?

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. At the time of hearing, Petitioner had applied for and was approved for SER. Petitioner stated that she was not disputing anything with regard to her SER applications.
2. On August [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner applied for FIP.
3. On September [REDACTED] 2025, a Notice of Case Action was sent to Petitioner informing her that her FIP application was denied because verification of school attendance was not received.
4. On October [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner applied for FIP.
5. On October [REDACTED] 2025, a Notice of Case Action was sent to Petitioner informing her that her FIP application was denied because verification of school attendance was not received.
6. On November [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner applied for FIP.
7. On December 3, 2025, Petitioner requested hearing disputing the denial of FIP.

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8. On December █ 2025, Petitioner submitted school records for █ █ which shows his enrollment and progress report but not his attendance history. Enrollment records and attendance records for █ █ were also provided.
  9. On December █ 2025, a Notice of Case Action was sent to Petitioner informing her that her FIP application was denied for failing to verify school attendance for █ █

### **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 (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) 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.

#### **DEPARTMENT POLICY**

##### **FIP**

Only Dependent children are expected to attend school full-time, and graduate from high school or a high school equivalency program, in order to enhance their potential to obtain future employment leading to self-sufficiency. Dependent children ages 6 through 17 must attend school full-time. Age 6 to 15 A dependent child age 6 through 15 must attend school full-time. If a dependent child age 6 through 15 is not attending school fulltime, the entire Family Independence Program (FIP) group is not eligible to receive FIP. Note: A child may be 6 years old and not enrolled in school if the child's sixth birthday falls after the enrollment deadline for the current school year. Age 16 or 17 A dependent child age 16 or 17 who is not attending high school full-time is disqualified from the FIP group in Bridges. A dependent child age 16 or 17 who has graduated from high school is not required to participate in the Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope. (PATH) program; BEM 245

#### **ATTENDANCE COMPLIANCE TEST**

##### **FIP Only**

If verification is returned that a dependent child or minor parent receiving FIP is not attending school full-time, an attendance compliance test is required before taking appropriate action regarding the FIP group. The attendance compliance test requires the dependent child or minor parent to attend all school days for 21 consecutive calendar days. Initiating the Attendance Compliance Test In order for a dependent child or minor parent to complete the attendance compliance test, do the following: •

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Generate the MDHHS-5443, FIP Student Attendance Compliance Test, and send to the FIP group. The MDHHS5443 explains to the head of household that a dependent child or minor parent has been verified as not enrolled or not attending school full-time. In order for the FIP group and/or dependent child age 16 or 17 to continue to receive FIP, the dependent child or minor parent must complete a 21 day attendance compliance test. In order for FIP benefits to continue, the DHS-3380, Verification of Student Information, must be returned in 31 days verifying full-time attendance. • Generate the DHS-3380 and send to the FIP group with the 21 Day Compliance Test box checked. The DHS-3380 must be sent with the DHS-3503-F, Verification Checklist, to be returned in 31 days. BEM 245

## **VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

### **FIP**

Only Accept the client's statement that a 6 year old is enrolled and attending school full-time unless questionable. Verify school enrollment and attendance at application and redetermination beginning with age 7. Verify school enrollment and attendance at application, redetermination and at each birthday beginning with age 16. Verify school enrollment and attendance for minor parents at application, redetermination and at each birthday. Verify the completion and results of the attendance compliance test for dependent children or minor parents receiving FIP. Verify the completion and results of the 21 day attendance requirement for dependent children or minor parents at FIP application. BEM 245

In this case, Petitioner stated at hearing that she was not disputing anything with regard to SER. With regard to Petitioner's FIP applications, all the applications were consistently denied for Petitioner failing to verify school attendance for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Petitioner submitted enrollment confirmation and a progress report for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] but no attendance records. Petitioner was required to verify school attendance showing that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was attending school full time. BEM 245 Petitioner provided nothing showing [REDACTED] [REDACTED] attendance history. It should be noted that the progress report Petitioner submitted for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] shows 6 "F"s including 2 zeros under the % column so it is highly questionable that he is attending regularly. The Department denials for failing to verify school attendance for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were proper and correct and consistent with Department policy. BEM 245

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## DECISION AND ORDER

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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 Petitioner failed to verify school attendance for [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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



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**AARON MCCLINTIC**  
**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://rs.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

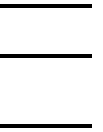
- by email to [MOAHR-BSD-Support@michigan.gov](mailto:MOAHR-BSD-Support@michigan.gov), **OR**
- by fax at (517) 763-0155, **OR**
- by mail addressed to  
Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules  
Rehearing/Reconsideration Request  
P.O. Box 30639  
Lansing Michigan 48909-8139

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**Via Electronic Mail:**

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HEARINGS@MICHIGAN.GOV**



**Via First Class Mail:**

**Petitioner**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]