



**Date Mailed:** November 5, 2025  
**Docket No.:** 25-030019  
**Case No.:** [REDACTED]  
**Petitioner:** [REDACTED]

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

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

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**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 October 1, 2025. Petitioner appeared and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Caleb Nygren, Hearing Facilitator (HF).

During the hearing proceeding, the Department's Hearing Summary packet was admitted as Exhibit A, pp. 1-213.

### **ISSUE**

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

### **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 [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner applied for FIP and childcare benefits. The reported household members were Petitioner and two daughters. It was reported that Petitioner and one of her daughters were disabled. (Exhibit A, pp. 10-17)
2. On April 11, 2025, an interview was completed, and it was verified that one of Petitioner's daughter's receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. Verifications and needed forms were requested. One of the needed verifications was documentation of employment services for Petitioner, with a due date of April 21, 2025. A listed acceptable type of verification for employment services is a Medical Needs form. A blank DHS-54-E Medical Needs-PATH form was included with the Verification Checklist. One of the needed forms was a Family Automated Screening Tool (FAST), which was to be completed online within 30 days. (Exhibit A, pp. 3 and 18-39)
3. On April 23, 2025, the [REDACTED] 2025 FIP application was denied, in part due to a failure to return requested verifications. (Exhibit A, pp. 3 and 42-48)

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4. On [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner applied for FIP and childcare benefits. (Exhibit A, pp. 49-56)
  5. On May 6, 2025, an interview was completed with Petitioner, who reported she was disabled and in the process of applying for SSI. Verifications and needed forms were requested. One of the needed verifications was documentation of employment services for Petitioner, with a due date of May 16, 2025. A listed acceptable type of verification for employment services is a Medical Needs form. A blank DHS-54-E Medical Needs-PATH form was included with the Verification Checklist. One of the needed forms was a FAST, which was to be completed online within 30 days. (Exhibit A, pp. 4 and 57-70)
  6. On May 8, 2025, a Medical Needs-PATH form was received showing Petitioner was disabled and unable to work for more than 90 days. (Exhibit A, pp. 4 and 71-72)
  7. On May 14, 2025, a Notice of Case Action was issued approving FIP for Petitioner and one daughter starting May 16, 2025. The second daughter could not be included in the FIP group because she is receiving SSI benefits. (Exhibit A, pp. 4 and 73-80)
  8. On [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner applied for medical assistance. (Exhibit A, pp. 81-87)
  9. On June 5, 2025, a Notice of Case Action and Notice of Noncompliance were issued to Petitioner stating the FIP case would close effective July 1, 2025 due to failing to participate in employment and/or self-sufficiency-related activities, specifically failing to complete a FAST. (Exhibit A, pp. 4 and 88-96)
  10. On [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner applied for FIP and medical assistance benefits. (Exhibit A, pp. 98-105)
  11. On June 11, 2025, a triage was held, good cause was found, and Petitioner requested a deferral from Partnership Accountability Training Hope (PATH). Petitioner submitted the FAST. A Notice of Case Action was issued reinstating FIP benefits effective July 1, 2025. (Exhibit A, pp. 4-5, 106-112, and 209)
  12. On June 11, 2025, a Medical Determination Verification Checklist was issued to Petitioner requesting verifications needed for the Medical Review Team/Disability Determination Services (MRT/DDS) packet with a due date of June 23, 2025. (Exhibit A, pp. 4-5 and 113-125)
  13. On June 26, 2025, a Notice of Case Action was issued to Petitioner stating the FIP case would close effective August 1, 2025, based on failing to return the requested verifications needed to determine eligibility. (Exhibit A, pp. 128-135)
  14. On June 30, 2025, Petitioner submitted a hearing request contesting the FIP determinations. (Exhibit A, pp. 5 and 150)

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15. On [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner applied for FIP benefits. (Exhibit A, pp. 136-142)
  16. On July 1, 2025, an interview was completed with Petitioner. (Exhibit A, pp. 143-149)
  17. On July 1, 2025, verifications and needed forms were requested. One of the needed verifications was documentation of employment services for Petitioner, with a due date of July 11, 2025. A listed acceptable type of verification for employment services is a Medical Needs form. A blank DHS-54-E Medical Needs-PATH form was included with the Verification Checklist. One of the needed forms was a FAST, which was to be completed online within 30 days. (Exhibit A, pp. 5 and 151-157)
  18. On [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner applied for FIP benefits. (Exhibit A, pp. 158-164)
  19. On July 22, 2025, an interview was completed. Verifications and needed forms were requested. (Exhibit A, pp. 5-6 and 165-175)
  20. On July 22, 2025, a Medical Determination Verification Checklist was issued to Petitioner requesting verifications needed for the MRT/DDS packet with a due date of August 1, 2025. (Exhibit A, pp. 176-190)
  21. On July 23, 2025, a DHS-54E Medical Needs PATH was received for Petitioner. (Exhibit A, pp. 6 and 192-193)
  22. On August 6, 2025, the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR) issued written notice denying Petitioner's June 30, 2025 hearing request because it was not signed. (Exhibit A, pp. 197-198)
  23. On August 11, 2025, a Notice of Case Action was issued to Petitioner stating FIP benefits were approved effective August 16, 2025. (Exhibit A, pp. 199-206)
  24. On August 13, 2025, Petitioner submitted a signed hearing request contesting the Department's determinations regarding FIP. (Exhibit A, p. 8)

### **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

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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.

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Clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility. This includes completion of necessary forms. BAM 130, April 1, 2025, p. 7.

For FIP, the Department is to allow the client 10 calendar days (or other time limit specified in policy) to provide the verification that is requested. Verifications are considered to be timely if received by the date they are due. For electronically transmitted verifications (fax, email or Mi Bridges document upload), the date of the transmission is the receipt date. Verifications that are submitted after the close of regular business hours through the drop box or by delivery of a MDHHS representative are considered to be received the next business day. The Department is to send a negative action notice when: the client indicates refusal to provide a verification; or the time period given has elapsed and the client has not made a reasonable effort to provide it. For FIP, if the client contacts the Department prior to the due date requesting an extension or assistance in obtaining verifications, the specialist may grant an extension to the VCL due date. BAM 130, May 1, 2024, p. 7.

At intake, redetermination or anytime during an ongoing benefit period, when an individual claims to be disabled or indicates an inability to participate in work or PATH for more than 90 days because of a mental or physical condition, the client should be deferred. BEM 230A, October 1, 2022, p. 11. Long-term incapacity is a multi-step process. Step one is establishment of disability. Once a client claims a disability, he/she must provide MDHHS with verification of the disability when requested. The verification must indicate that the disability will last longer than 90 calendar days. If the verification is not returned, a disability is not established. Step two is defining the disability. For verified disabilities over 90 days, see BAM 815, Medical Determination and Disability Determination Service, for the policy requirements in obtaining a medical certification from DDS. If the client does not provide the requested verifications, the FIP should be placed into closure for failure to provide needed documentation. For verified disabilities over 90 days, the client must apply for benefits through the Social Security Administration (SSA) before step three. See BAM 815, Medical Determination and Disability Determination Service and BEM 270, Pursuit of Benefits. Step 3 is a Referral to the Medical Review Team/Disability Determination Services. (MRT/DDS). The local Department office is to send the completed required forms along with any medical evidence provided to the MRT/DDS to begin the medical development process. BEM 230 A, pp. 11-12.

For FIP initial benefits, provided the group meets all eligibility requirements, the Department is to begin assistance in the pay period in which the application becomes 30 days old. If the application becomes 30 days old and the group has not met eligibility requirements, the Department is to begin assistance for the first pay period when it does. BAM 115, October 1, 2024, p. 26.

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The 2025 Fiscal Appropriations Act included funding for the children's clothing allowance. The allowance is intended to assist FIP families to purchase school clothing for their children. The children's clothing allowance for the 2025 fiscal year is \$400 per child. Bridges will automatically issue supplements for the children's clothing allowance to FIP EDGs with qualifying children who are eligible for August FIP payments in Bridges as of the single deadline date of July 31, 2025. BPB 2025-020.

In this case, Petitioner's hearing request alleged that every month her cash assistance was denied for no reason when her documents have been submitted each and every time in a timely manner. (Exhibit A, p. 8). However, the evidence shows that Petitioner did not always timely submit required documentation. For example, on April 11, 2025, a Verification Checklist was issued, in part requesting documentation of employment services for Petitioner, with a due date of April 21, 2025. A listed acceptable type of verification for employment services is a Medical Needs form. A blank DHS-54-E Medical Needs-PATH form was included with the Verification Checklist. (Exhibit A, pp. 31-33 and 36-37). The Medical Needs-PATH form was not received until May 8, 2025. (Exhibit A, pp. 4 and 71-72). On April 11, 2025, a FAST Referred Notice was issued to Petitioner stating she needed to complete the FAST online within 30 days. (Exhibit A, pp. 34-35). A FAST was not submitted until June 11, 2025. (Exhibit A, p. 209). There was no evidence that Petitioner returned the requested documentation, or contacted the Department to request assistance or an extension of the due date, by April 21, 2025. Accordingly, on April 23, 2025, the [REDACTED] 2025 FIP application was properly denied, in part due to a failure to return requested verifications. (Exhibit A, pp. 3 and 42-48). This denial was in accordance with the BAM 130 policy.

Petitioner contested the start date for the FIP benefits in May. (Petitioner Testimony). On May 14, 2025, a Notice of Case Action was issued approving FIP benefits for Petitioner and one daughter starting May 16, 2025. (Exhibit A, pp. 4 and 73-80). This approval was for the [REDACTED] 2025 application. (Exhibit A, pp. 49-56). The BAM 115 policy directs that for FIP initial benefits, provided the group meets all eligibility requirements, the Department is to begin assistance in the pay period in which the application becomes 30 days old. BAM 115, October 1, 2024, p. 26. Accordingly, the Department properly determined the initial benefits for the [REDACTED] 2025 application, would start the benefit period of May 16, 2025 to May 31, 2025 because that is when the [REDACTED] 2025 application would become 30 days old.

Petitioner also contested not receiving an additional \$800.00 from the student allowance program, which is related to FIP. (Petitioner Testimony). It appears that Petitioner was referring to the children's clothing allowance. The children's clothing allowance for the 2025 fiscal year was \$400 per child. The Department's computer system automatically issues supplements for the children's clothing allowance to FIP beneficiaries with qualifying children who were eligible for August FIP payments in Bridges as of the single deadline date of July 31, 2025. BPB 2025-020 (underline added by ALJ). In this case, on June 26, 2025, a Notice of Case Action was issued to Petitioner stating the FIP case would close effective August 1, 2025, based on failing to return the requested

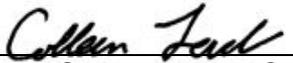
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verifications needed to determine eligibility. (Exhibit A, pp. 128-135). On June 11, 2025, a Medical Determination Verification Checklist was issued to Petitioner requesting verifications needed for the MRT/DDS packet with a due date of June 23, 2025. This request included multiple needed forms (Medical Social Questionnaire, Authorization to Release Protected Health Information, Reimbursement Authorization) and proof of a pending application for benefits with the Social Security Administration. (Exhibit A, pp. 4-5 and 113-125). There was no evidence that Petitioner returned the requested documentation, or contacted the Department to request assistance or an extension of the due date, by June 23, 2025. Pursuant to the BEM 230 A policy, if the client does not provide the requested verifications for step two of the long-term incapacity process, the FIP case should be placed into closure for failure to provide needed documentation. The June 26, 2025 determination to close Petitioner's FIP case effective August 1, 2025 was in accordance with Department policy. Accordingly, on the single deadline date of July 31, 2025, Petitioner's household was not eligible for August FIP benefits, and therefore, was not eligible for the children's clothing allowance for the 2025 fiscal year.

**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 determined Petitioner's eligibility for FIP benefits.

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



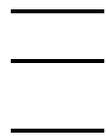
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**COLLEEN LACK**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE**

**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](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.



**Via Electronic Mail:**

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