



Date Mailed: October 31, 2025

Docket No.: 25-030293

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.

[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]

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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 2, 2025. [REDACTED], mother and Authorized Hearing Representative (AHR), represented Petitioner. Petitioner was present. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Jacob Kojiro, Lead Worker (LW).

During the hearing proceeding, the Department's Hearing Summary packet was admitted as Exhibit A, pp. 1-33.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's eligibility for Medical Assistance (MA) benefits under the Freedom to Work (MA-FTW) category?

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 receiving MA benefits under the Freedom to Work (MA-FTA) category.
2. On December 11, 2024, a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice was issued to Petitioner indicating he would be responsible to pay a monthly premium of \$51.68 for the MA-FTW coverage effective January 1, 2025. (Exhibit A, pp. 6-9)
3. Petitioner did not make any premium payments. (Exhibit A, pp. 1 and 24-25; LW Testimony)
4. On June 10, 2025, a written notice was issued to Petitioner stating MA would close effective July 1, 2025. (LW Testimony)
5. On August 20, 2025, a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice was issued to Petitioner indicating the MA benefits would close effective October 1, 2025. While

an inaccurate reason was listed on this notice, the denial of ongoing MA-FTW was based on Petitioner not making the premium payments. (Exhibit A, pp. 26-29)

6. On August 21, 2025, Petitioner filed a hearing request contesting a denial of MA for July 2025 forward. (Exhibit A, pp. 3-4)
7. Petitioner was subsequently reapproved for MA. (AHR Testimony)
8. The LW testified the MA-FTW was closed for July, August and September 2025. (LW Testimony)

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 Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5; 42 USC 1315; the Affordable Care Act of 2010, the collective term for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152; and 42 CFR 430.10-.25. The Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

Nonpayment of the MA-FTW premium is automatically sent to Bridges and mass update will close the Freedom to Work category. BEM 174, October 1, 2024, p. 3.

In this case, a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice was issued to Petitioner on December 11, 2024, indicating Petitioner would be responsible to pay a monthly premium of \$51.68 for the MA-FTW coverage effective January 1, 2025. (Exhibit A, pp. 6-9). Petitioner did not make any premium payments. (Exhibit A, pp. 1 and 24-25; LW Testimony). On June 10, 2025, a written notice was issued to Petitioner stating MA would close effective July 1, 2025. (LW Testimony).

Petitioner's mother acknowledged that the MA-FTW premium payments were not made. She had a lot going on in her life at that time and did not make sure that the premium payments were made. Additionally, Petitioner's mother noted that they had problems receiving mail, but they have changed where they receive mail. (AHR Testimony).

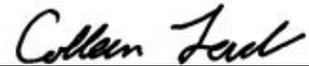
Overall, the evidence supports the Department's determination to close Petitioner's MA-FTW benefits effective July 1, 2025 based on a failure to pay the MA-FTW premiums. Pursuant to the BEM 174 policy, MA-FTW closes when the premiums are not paid.

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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 acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed Petitioner's MA-FTW benefits effective July 1, 2025 based on a failure to pay the MA-FTW premiums.

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



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://irs.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.

25-030293



Via Electronic Mail:

Respondent

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Petitioner

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