



**Date Mailed:** September 25, 2025  
**Docket No.:** 25-031911  
**Case No.:** [REDACTED]  
**Petitioner:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] MI [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:** September 25, 2025

**Docket No.:** 25-031911

**Case No.:** 117806495

**Petitioner:** [REDACTED]

### **HEARING DECISION**

On August 12, 2025, Petitioner's Authorized Hearing Representative (AHR) [REDACTED] requested a hearing to dispute a Food Assistance Program (FAP) closure. As a result, a hearing was scheduled to be held on September 24, 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; and 45 CFR 205.10; and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. Petitioner [REDACTED] and Petitioner's AHR appeared at the hearing. Respondent, Department of Health and Human Services (Department), had Eligibility Specialist Emily Williamson appear as its representative.

A 26-page packet of documents provided by the Department was admitted collectively as the Department's Exhibit A.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly close Petitioner's FAP 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. An appointment notice was mailed to Petitioner advising Petitioner that a redetermination interview was scheduled for July 1, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.
2. The Department attempted to reach Petitioner for the redetermination interview scheduled on July 1, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. but was unable to reach Petitioner. Therefore, a detailed voicemail message was left.
3. Petitioner's AHR asserted that Petitioner's AHR and Petitioner were prepared for the interview and waiting for a phone call for the interview on July 1, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. but no call was received from the Department.
4. On July 1, 2025, an appointment notice was mailed to Petitioner advising Petitioner that the department rescheduled Petitioner's redetermination interview for July 18, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.
5. The Department attempted to reach Petitioner for the redetermination interview scheduled on July 18, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. but was unable to reach Petitioner.

---

Therefore, a detailed voicemail message was left advising Petitioner to call the Department to complete or reschedule the interview.

---

6. Petitioner's AHR asserted that Petitioner's AHR and Petitioner were prepared for the interview and waiting for a phone call for the interview on July 18, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. but no call was received from the Department.
7. On July 18, 2025, around 1:30 p.m. Petitioner's AHR called the Department. After waiting on the phone line for 2 hours, a call-back number was left but no return call from the Department was received.
8. On July 31, 2025, a notice of case action was mailed to Petitioner closing Petitioner's FAP benefits effective August 1, 2025, because Petitioner did not complete the required redetermination interview.
9. On August 12, 2025, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the Department's determination.
10. On August 23, 2025, Petitioner's AHR discovered a technical issue with the telephone number that the Department was calling resulting in Petitioner's AHR's telephone line not allowing the Department's call to get through to Petitioner's AHR.

### **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 FAP is established by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, 7 USC 2011 to 2036a and is implemented by the federal regulations contained in 7 CFR 273. The Department administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001-.3011.

The Department closed Petitioner's FAP benefits because Petitioner did not participate in a required interview. The Department is required to interview a client prior to renewing eligibility for FAP benefits. 7 CFR 273.14(3).

The record shows that Petitioner was contacted by the Department for the redetermination interview that was scheduled on July 1, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. and July 18, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the telephone number Petitioner reported to the Department but Petitioner was unable to be reached.

At the September 24, 2025, hearing Petitioner's AHR asserted that on August 23, 2025, Petitioner's AHR discovered a technical issue with the telephone number that the Department was calling resulting in Petitioner's AHR's telephone line not allowing the Department's call to get through to Petitioner's AHR. Petitioner's AHR further asserted that a call back number was left for the Department on July 18, 2025, but no return call was received from the Department.

Based on the testimony and evidence in this matter, the Department properly advised Petitioner of the redetermination interviews and attempted to reach Petitioner for the scheduled interviews. While Petitioner's AHR asserted that newly discovered technical issues resulted in the Department's phone calls not coming through to Petitioner's AHR, no evidence was presented to show that the Department acted improperly. Further, no evidence was presented to support Petitioner's AHR's testimony that Petitioner called the Department to complete or reschedule the interview.

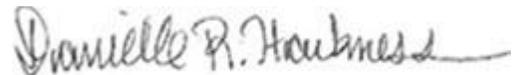
Because the Department advised Petitioner of the redetermination interviews and Petitioner did not participate in the required interview, the Department properly closed Petitioner's FAP benefits.

As stated at the hearing, Petitioner is advised to immediately re-apply for FAP benefits.

### **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 FAP benefits.

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



---

**DANIELLE R. HARKNESS**  
**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](http://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](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:**

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

**Via First Class Mail:**

**Authorized Hearing Rep**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

**Petitioner**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_