



**Date Mailed:** October 14, 2025  
**Docket No.:** 25-033463  
**Case No.:** [REDACTED]  
**Petitioner:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
MI [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; 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. After due notice, a hearing was held by telephone on October 9, 2025. Petitioner appeared and represented himself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Caitlin Dodge, Family Independence Manager.

The Department's 36-page hearing packet was entered into evidence as Exhibit A.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly close Petitioner's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefit case for failure to provide verifications?

### **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 an ongoing recipient of FAP benefits for a one-person FAP group.
2. On July 20, 2025, the Department received a completed redetermination application for FAP benefits from Petitioner. Petitioner reported that he was employed by [REDACTED]. (Employer) and self-employed. Petitioner reported expenses including property taxes, housing association or similar fees, homeowner's insurance, and various utilities. No specific amounts of income or expenses were reported on the redetermination application. (Exhibit A, pp. 16 – 17).
3. On August 8, 2025, the Department interviewed Petitioner. Petitioner reported that he had no income, his father gave him \$ [REDACTED] per month to pay his expenses, and that he expected that contribution to continue. Petitioner also reported ownership of his home, checking and savings accounts, and a business bank account. (Exhibit A, pp. 18 – 24).
4. On August 8, 2025, the Department sent Petitioner a Verification Checklist (VCL) that requested verification of Petitioner's employment income and unearned

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income; the verifications were due to the Department by August 18, 2025. The Department included a blank Verification of Employment (VOE) with the VCL. (Exhibit A, pp. 25 – 28).

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5. On August 16, 2025, the Department received the VOE, completed by Petitioner as president of Employer. The VOE reported that Petitioner worked 40 hours per week, and had not received any income from Employer since he started on December 26, 2023. (Exhibit A, pp. 28 – 30).
6. On August 17, 2025, the Department received a typewritten statement from Petitioner on which he certified that he had no unearned income to report. (Exhibit A, p. 31).
7. On September 5, 2025, the Department sent Petitioner a Notice of Case Action (NOCA) that closed Petitioner's FAP case for failure to return verification of income. (Exhibit A, pp. 33 – 34).
8. On September 11, 2025, the Department received a request for hearing from Petitioner, disputing the Department's closure of his FAP case. (Exhibit A, pp. 3 – 15).

### **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 Food Assistance Program (FAP) [formerly known as the Food Stamp program] 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 (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001-.3011.

Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the Department's closure of his FAP case. The Department closed Petitioner's FAP case effective September 1, 2025, for failure to return verification of earned and unearned income.

At application and redetermination, the Department must thoroughly review all eligibility factors in the case, including verifying all countable earned and unearned income available to the client. BAM 105 (June 2025), pp. 17 – 18; BAM 130 (May 2024), p. 1; BAM 210 (July 2025), p. 1; BEM 500 (April 2022), pp. 13 – 14. Income includes, but is not limited to, funds a client receives from employment, self-employment, business

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ownership, and contributions to the FAP household. BEM 501 (January 2024), pp. 5 – 7; BEM 502 (June 2024); BEM 503 (July 2025), pp. 11, 33.

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To request verification of information, the Department sends a VCL to the client, which tells the client what verification is required, how to obtain it, and the due date. BAM 130, p. 3. Clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility and are generally allowed 10 days to provide the requested verifications. BAM 105, pp. 7 – 8; BAM 130, p. 7. If the client refuses to provide the verification, or when the verification due date has passed and the client has not made a reasonable effort to provide the requested documents, the Department sends a NOCA closing the client's case. BAM 130, pp. 7 – 8.

In this case, Petitioner was an ongoing recipient of FAP benefits and submitted a redetermination application on July 20, 2025. Although Petitioner reported that he was both employed and self-employed, he did not report any income on his redetermination application. However, during the interview, although Petitioner reported that he had no income from employment or self-employment, he further reported that his father had given him \$[REDACTED] the prior month to cover his expenses, and that he expected his father's contribution to continue.

Based on Petitioner's representations, the Department sent Petitioner a VCL and VOE on August 8, 2025, and requested verification of Petitioner's earned and unearned income. The VCL also instructed Petitioner to call the Department right away if he had questions regarding the requested verifications or the VCL itself. There was no dispute that the Department received the VOE, completed by Petitioner as president of Employer, and a typewritten statement from Petitioner in which he stated, "I hereby certify that I have no unearned income to report." However, because the Department did not receive verification of the contribution Petitioner received from his father, it closed his FAP case effective September 1, 2025.

The Department credibly testified that during the pre-hearing conference with Petitioner, it offered him another opportunity to provide verification of the contribution he received from his father; however, as of the instant hearing, Petitioner had not provided the requested verification. During the hearing, Petitioner did not clearly explain why he did not provide verification of his father's contribution either before the VCL due date or when he was given another opportunity to do so. Petitioner was unable to provide additional information or clarity regarding his current or historic income and testified that the documents included in Exhibit A were an accurate reflection of his circumstances.

Based on the totality of the evidence and testimony, the Department established that although Petitioner reported receiving contributions to his household and verification of that income was requested, Petitioner did not provide the requested verification. Therefore, the Department properly closed Petitioner's FAP case.

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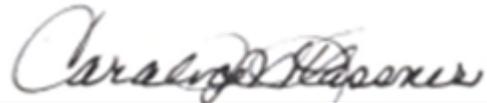
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## DECISION AND ORDER

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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 closed Petitioner's FAP case effective September 1, 2025, for failure to provide verification of his unearned income.

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



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**CARALYCE M. LASSNER**  
**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://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

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**Via Electronic Mail:**

**Respondent**

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**Via First Class Mail:**

**Petitioner**

[REDACTED]  
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