



Date Mailed: October 20, 2025

Docket No.: 25-033626

Case No.: [REDACTED]

Petitioner: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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দ্বারা অনুবাদ করুন।

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lутем, кини дикë та пëркtheni dokumentin.

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Case No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Christian Gardocki

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 telephone hearing was held via Microsoft Teams on October 13, 2025. Petitioner participated and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) was represented by Brandy Brown, specialist.

ISSUE

The issue is whether MDHHS properly terminated Petitioner's Food Assistance Program (FAP) eligibility.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The administrative law judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. As of July 2025, Petitioner was an ongoing recipient of FAP benefits.
2. On July [REDACTED] 2025, MDHHS mailed Petitioner redetermination documents to [REDACTED] (hereinafter, "Address"). The documents warned that Petitioner's FAP eligibility would end if the documents were not returned.
3. On August [REDACTED] 2025, MDHHS mailed to Address a Notice of Missed Appointment warning that Petitioner's FAP benefit eligibility would end unless FAP redetermination documents were returned by August 31, 2025.
4. As of September 1, 2025, Address was Petitioner's most recently reported mailing address.
5. Beginning September 2025, Petitioner's FAP eligibility ended due to Petitioner's failure to return redetermination documents.
6. On September 15, 2025, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the termination of FAP benefits.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The FAP [formerly known as the Food Stamp program] is funded under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) established by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, 7 USC 2011 to 7 USC 2036d. It is implemented by the federal regulations contained in 7 CFR 273. MDHHS administers the FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10 of the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1 *et seq.*, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 to R 400.3031. FAP policies are contained in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), and Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute a termination of FAP benefits.¹ Exhibit A, pp. 3-5. A Notice of Missed Appointment dated August █ 2025, stated that Petitioner's FAP eligibility would end after August 31, 2025, due to failing to return redetermination documents. Exhibit A, p. 19. Petitioner's FAP eligibility indeed ended beginning September 2025 after MDHHS failed to receive Petitioner's redetermination documents

For all programs, a complete redetermination is required at least every 12 months. BAM 210 (July 2025) p. 3. Bridges, the MDHHS database, generates a redetermination packet to the client on the fourth day of the month before the redetermination is due. *Id.*, p. 8. For FAP benefits, the redetermination process begins when the client files a DHS-1010 or other acceptable substitute form. *Id.*, p. 3. For FAP benefits, MDHHS is also to conduct a telephone interview at redetermination before determining ongoing eligibility. *Id.*, p. 6. If the client misses the interview, Bridges sends a DHS-254, Notice of Missed Interview. *Id.*

FAP benefits stop at the end of the benefit period unless the redetermination process is completed and a new benefit period is certified. *Id.* If the redetermination packet is not logged-in by the last working day of the redetermination month, Bridges automatically closes the benefits and a Notice of Case Action is not generated. *Id.*, p. 14.

MDHHS mailed Petitioner redetermination forms on July █ 2025 to Address. Exhibit A, pp. 7-13. The redetermination form stated a due date of July 25, 2025, and an interview date of August █ 2025. The form warned that Petitioner's FAP eligibility would end if not returned. It was not disputed that Petitioner did not return the redetermination form or participate in an interview. After not receiving Petitioner's redetermination documents, MDHHS mailed Petitioner a Notice of Missed Appointment on August █ 2025. Exhibit A, p. 19.

¹ In its packet, MDHHS included a notice informing Petitioner of a reduction to \$█ in FAP eligibility for August 2025. Because of this notice and Petitioner's written reference to an amount of FAP benefits being disputed, Petitioner was asked if he was disputing a reduction in FAP benefits; Petitioner responded that he was only disputing the termination of FAP benefits. Later in the hearing, Petitioner stated he intended to dispute the benefit reduction and termination. Because Petitioner's hearing request did not allege multiple disputes, Petitioner's hearing request is interpreted as a dispute only concerning a FAP benefit termination.

Petitioner responded that he did not receive the redetermination documents and presumably the Notice of Missed Appointment form. Petitioner testified that the forms were mailed by MDHHS to an address he last used in 2024. Petitioner also testified he was unable to afford the PO box requiring a change in mailing address later in 2024. Petitioner additionally testified that he was “100% certain” that he reported a change in mailing address during a hearing before an administrative law judge in January 2025, though he could not recall the MDHHS’s worker’s name.² Thus, Petitioner contended that MDHHS was at fault for his failure to return redetermination forms by failing to update his mailing address.

Petitioner’s testimony was not corroborated. The testifying MDHHS specialist also presented testimony that Petitioner told her that he could not recall how or when he reported an address change. Further, a review of Petitioner’s hearing history did not include hearings for Petitioner since before Petitioner stated he stopped using Address as a mailing address.

Given the evidence, MDHHS properly terminated Petitioner’s FAP eligibility. Thus, Petitioner’s recourse is to reapply for FAP benefits if still needed.³

DECISION AND ORDER

The administrative law judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that MDHHS properly terminated Petitioner’s FAP benefit eligibility beginning September 2025. The actions of MDHHS are **AFFIRMED**.



CHRISTIAN GARDOCKI
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

² Petitioner additionally testified that he was told by the unspecified MDHHS worker that his mailing address was successfully updated.

³ Petitioner appears potentially eligible to receive FAP benefits through the Michigan Combined Application Project (MiCAP). MiCAP allows individuals with disability income to receive FAP benefits based on favorable housing expense standards (see BEM 618). If interested, Petitioner may call 877-522-8050 to obtain an application for the program.

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, 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
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Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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