



Date Mailed: November 14, 2025
Docket No.: 25-034345
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: November 14, 2025

Docket No.: 25-034345

Case No.: [REDACTED]

Petitioner: [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 November 5, 2025. Petitioner participated and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) was represented by Anthony White, specialist. Jonathan Min of Boostlingo participated as an English-Korean translator.

ISSUE

The issue is whether MDHHS properly denied Petitioner's State Emergency Relief (SER) application requesting energy assistance.

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 SER seeking assistance with payment of an energy bill (SER-Energy).
1. As of September 11, 2025, Petitioner had active energy service and no past due amount on his energy bills.
2. On September 11, 2025, MDHHS denied Petitioner's SER application due to copayments, shortfalls, and client contributions exceeding the amount needed for SER.
3. On September 19, 2025, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the denial of SER-Energy.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Emergency Relief (SER) program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1 *et seq.* MDHHS administers the program pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.7000 to R 400.7049. SER policies are contained in the Emergency Services Manual (ERM).

Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the denial of an SER-Energy application. Exhibit A, pp. 3-5. Petitioner applied for SER-Energy benefits on ██████████ 2025. Exhibit A, pp. 12-18. A State Emergency Relief Decision Notice dated September 11, 2025, stated that Petitioner's application was denied due to the total of copayments (based on income and assets), shortfalls (previous amounts that MDHHS expects a client to pay towards a bill), and client contributions (amounts not covered by SER that a client is expected to pay) exceeded the amounts needed to resolve the emergency. Exhibit A, pp. 7-9.

For SER denials based on copayments, shortfalls, and client contributions exceeding a client's need for SER, a budgetary analysis is necessary. No such analysis is needed in the present case because MDHHS alleged that Petitioner's past due amount was \$0.

When the group's heat or electric service for their current residence is in past due status, in threat of shutoff or is already shut off and must be restored, payment may be authorized to the enrolled provider. ERM 301 (December 2024) p. 4. The SER request should be processed using the past due or shut-off amount, whichever is the most advantageous. *Id.* Current bills that are not past due or subject to shutoff should not be included in the amount needed. *Id.*

SER-Energy policy implies that payments may only be made when there is an energy or life-threatening crisis. Circumstances of an energy crisis include having an energy bill in past-due or shut-off status.¹ *Id.* p. 2.

MDHHS obtained Petitioner's energy account information on September 11, 2025, from a data exchange with Petitioner's energy provider. The documents listed Petitioner's past-due balance to be \$0. Exhibit A, pp. 19-24. Petitioner did not deny having a past-due balance of \$0.

Pettitioner's SER-Energy application would be properly denied due to Petitioner not having an emergency as defined by SER policy. However, am SER-Energy denial based on copayments, shortfalls, and contributions exceeding a need of \$0 would also justify denial.

¹ Other circumstances include an inoperable furnace, a residential fuel tank under 25% capacity, a need for deliverable fuel, and/or a balance on a prepaid fuel account being under \$100. ERM 301 (December 2024) pp. 1-2.

Petitioner testified that he is at an advanced age and has little income. Petitioner's circumstances are not relevant to an SER-Energy denial for an energy account with no past-due balance.

The evidence did not establish that Petitioner's energy account was in past-due status or in any threat of shut-off. Without such evidence, MDHHS properly denied Petitioner's SER application.

DECISION AND ORDER

The administrative law judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that MDHHS properly denied Petitioner's SER-Energy application dated [REDACTED] 2025. The actions taken by MDHHS are **AFFIRMED**.


CHRISTIAN GARDOCKI
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.

Via Electronic Mail:

Respondent

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Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]

