



Date Mailed: November 4, 2025
Docket No.: 25-035085
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
MI [REDACTED]

This is an important legal document. Please have someone translate the document.

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এটি একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ আইনি ডকুমেন্ট। দয়া করে কেউ দস্তাবেজ অনুবাদ করুন।

Este es un documento legal importante. Por favor, que alguien traduzca el documento.

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Ky është një dokument ligjor i rëndësishëm. Ju lutem, kini dikë ta përktheni dokumentin.

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Docket No.: 25-035085

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; 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 21, 2025. Petitioner appeared and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Rebecca Ridley, Hearing Coordinator (HC).

During the hearing proceeding, the Department's Hearing Summary packet was admitted as Exhibit A, pp. 1-59.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's eligibility for Medical Assistance (MA) and Food Assistance Program (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. On [REDACTED] 2025ⁱ, Petitioner submitted an Assistance Application for MA and FAP benefits for herself. Petitioner reported she was homeless, living in the car. (Exhibit A, pp. 7-14)
2. On August 1, 2025, a Verification Checklist was issued to Petitioner requesting verification of income with a due date of August 11, 2025. (Exhibit A, pp.21-22)
3. On August 8, 2025, an interview was completed with Petitioner. Petitioner reported income from employment with [REDACTED] working 20-25 hours per week and earning \$[REDACTED] per hour. (Exhibit A, pp. 23-29)
4. The Department attempted to verify the employment income with a report from The Work Number, but no information was available. (Exhibit A, p. 30)
5. On August 8, 2025, a Verification Checklist was issued to Petitioner requesting verification of income with a due date of August 18, 2025. (Exhibit A, pp. 31-33)

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6. On August 29, 2025, a Health Care Coverage Determination notice was issued, in part stating MA benefits for Petitioner was denied effective August 1, 2025, based on a failure to return requested verification. (Exhibit A, pp. 46-49)
 7. On August 29, 2025, a Notice of Case Action was issued stating FAP benefits were denied for Petitioner based on the failure to provide requested verifications. (Exhibit A, pp. 41-45)
 8. On September 22, 2025, Petitioner submitted a hearing request contesting the Department's determinations. (Exhibit A, pp. 3-5)
 9. On September 22, 2025, the Department received a Verification of Employment for Petitioner, but there was no pay information or signatures from Petitioner or the employer. (Exhibit A, pp. 50-52)

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.

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.

In general, verification is to be obtained when information regarding an eligibility factor is unclear, inconsistent, incomplete, or contradictory. Verification is usually required at application/redetermination and for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level. The Department must tell the client what verification is required, how to obtain it, and the due date. The client must obtain required verification, but the Department must assist if the client needs and requests help. If neither the client nor the Department can obtain verification despite a reasonable effort, the Department should use the best

available information. If no evidence is available, the Department is to use their best judgment. BAM 130, May 1, 2024, pp. 1-4.

For FAP, the Department must allow the client 10 calendar days (or other time limit specified in policy) to provide the verification requested. Verifications are considered to be timely if received by the date they are due. The Department is to send a negative action notice when the client indicates refusal to provide a verification, or the time period given has elapsed and the client has not made a reasonable effort to provide it. BAM 130, May 1, 2024, p. 7.

For FAP only, if the client contacts the department prior to the due date requesting an extension or assistance in obtaining verifications, assist the client with the verifications but do not grant an extension. Explain to the client they will not be given an extension and their case will be denied once the VCL due date is passed. Also, explain their eligibility will be determined based on their compliance date if they return required verifications. Re register the application if the client complies within 60 days of the application date; see Subsequent Processing in BAM 115. BAM 130, pp. 7-8.

For MA, the Department must allow the client 10 calendar days (or other time limit specified in policy) to provide the verification requested. If the client cannot provide the verification despite a reasonable effort, the Department can extend the time limit up to two times when specific conditions are met. These conditions include that the customer/authorized representative need to make the request. An extension should not automatically be given. Verifications are considered timely if received by the date they are due. The Department is to send a case action notice when the client indicates refusal to provide a verification, or the time period given has elapsed. BAM 130, pp. 8-9.

In this case, two verification checklists were sent requesting verification of Petitioner's income. On August 1, 2025, a Verification Checklist was issued to Petitioner requesting verification of income with a due date of August 11, 2025. (Exhibit A, pp.21-22). During an August 8, 2025 interview, Petitioner reported income from employment with [REDACTED] working 20-25 hours per week and earning \$ [REDACTED] per hour. (Exhibit A, pp. 23-29). The Department attempted to verify the employment income with a report from The Work Number, but no information was available. (Exhibit A, p. 30). Accordingly, on

August 8, 2025, another Verification Checklist was issued to Petitioner requesting verification of income with a due date of August 18, 2025. (Exhibit A, pp. 31-33). On August 29, 2025, a Health Care Coverage Determination notice was issued, in part stating MA benefits for Petitioner was denied effective August 1, 2025, based on a failure to return requested verification. (Exhibit A, pp. 46-49). On August 29, 2025, a Notice of Case Action was issued stating FAP benefits were denied for Petitioner based on the failure to provide requested verifications. (Exhibit A, pp. 41-45).

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The Department also noted that on September 22, 2025, a Verification of Employment for Petitioner was received. However, there was no pay information or signatures from Petitioner or the employer. (Exhibit A, pp. 50-52).

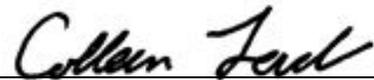
Petitioner's testimony included an explanation addressing prior applications for assistance and prior active cases including requests for verification, submission of employment verification, interviews, and case actions. (Petitioner Testimony). However, there is only jurisdiction to address the case action that occurred within the 90 days before the September 22, 2025 hearing request was filed. It appears that the only case action regarding FAP and MA for Petitioner that occurred within the 90 days prior to the September 22, 2025 hearing request was the August 29, 2025 determination to deny FAP and MA benefits based on the failure to provide the requested verification of Petitioner's current income. While Petitioner's testimony that she submitted verification of her employment income in May was credible, this would not have been considered current for the [REDACTED] 2025 application. The HC confirmed that the Department would have needed verification of income from the last 30 days. (HC Testimony).

Overall, the Department's determination to deny Petitioner's [REDACTED] 2025 MA and FAP application must be upheld. Verification of Petitioner's current income was requested on the August 1, 2025 Verification Checklist with a due date of August 11, 2025, and the August 8, 2025 Verification Checklist with a due date of August 18, 2025. (Exhibit A, pp. 21-22 and 31-33). There was no evidence that the requested verification was received before these due dates or that Petitioner contacted the Department to request assistance with the verification request. While an employment verification was received on August 28, 2025, this was for a non-household member. (Exhibit A, pp. 38-40 and 57; HC Testimony). Accordingly, the August 29, 2025 determination to deny MA and FAP benefits for Petitioner based on a failure to provide requested verification were in accordance with Department policy.

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 determined Petitioner's eligibility for MA and FAP.

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



COLLEEN LACK
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

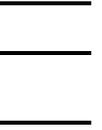
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APPEAL RIGHTS: Petitioner may appeal this Hearing Decision to the circuit court. Rules for appeals to the circuit court can be found in the Michigan Court Rules (MCR), including MCR 7.101 to MCR 7.123, available at the Michigan Courts website at courts.michigan.gov. 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]
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[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]