



**Date Mailed:** October 31, 2025  
**Docket No.:** 25-035219  
**Case No.:** [REDACTED]  
**Petitioner:** [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; 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 22, 2025. Petitioner appeared and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Caleb Nygren, Hearing Facilitator (HF).

During the hearing proceeding, the Department's Hearing Summary packet was admitted as Exhibit A, pp. 1-31.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly close Petitioner's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefit case?

### **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's FAP case was due for Redetermination in August 2025.
2. On July 5, 2025, a Redetermination form was sent to Petitioner with a due date of July 25, 2025, and stating a telephone interview would be held on August 4, 2025 between 9:30 am and 11:30 am. It was noted that FAP benefits would end if the form was not submitted. (Exhibit A, pp. 10-16)
3. The August 4, 2025 interview was marked as a no show because the Redetermination form had not been returned. (Exhibit A, pp. 3 and 31; HF Testimony)
4. On August 4, 2025, a Notice of Missed Appointment was sent to Petitioner stating she missed her scheduled interview and/or failed to return the redetermination packet prior to the interview. The notice stated it was now Petitioner's responsibility to reschedule the interview and/or return the redetermination packet before August 31, 2025, or the case would be denied. (Exhibit A, p. 17)

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5. On August 5, 2025, Petitioner submitted a Renew Benefits form online for the FAP case. [REDACTED] (JC) was listed as a household member. It was reported that JC had income from self-employment. (Exhibit A, pp. 18-19)
  6. On August 11, 2025, a Verification Checklist was issued to Petitioner requesting verification of self-employment for JC with a due date of August 21, 2025. (Exhibit A, pp. 20-22)
  7. On August 22, 2025, a Notice of Case Action was issued denying FAP benefits effective September 1, 2025, based on not returning the verification of self-employment for JC. (Exhibit A, pp. 23-27)
  8. On September 24, 2025, Petitioner requested a hearing contesting the closure of her FAP case. (Exhibit A, pp. 5-8)

### **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.

When FAP benefits are approved, the group is eligible for a specific benefit period (in calendar months) with a begin and end date. BAM 115, (July 1, 2025), p. 28. Clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility. This includes completion of necessary forms. Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 105 (June 1, 2025), p. 7. The Department must periodically re-determine or renew an individual's eligibility for active programs. The redetermination/renewal process includes thorough review of all eligibility factors. Redetermination, renewal, semi-annual and mid-certification forms are often used to re-determine eligibility of active programs. BAM 210 (July 1, 2025), p. 1.

In order to receive uninterrupted benefits (benefits available on his/her scheduled issuance date), the client must file the redetermination through MI Bridges or file either a MDHHS-1010, Redetermination and MDHHS-1010-FAP, MDHHS-1171, Assistance Application and MDHHS-1171-FAP supplement, or a signed MDHHS-1010-FAP, FAP 1010 supplemental filing form, by the fifteenth of the redetermination month. BAM 210, p. 16.

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Verifications must be provided by the end of the current benefit period or within 10 days after they are requested, whichever allows more time. If the tenth day falls on a weekend or holiday, the verification will not be due until the next business day. BAM 210, p. 17.

Bridges generates a redetermination packet to the client on the fourth day of the month before the redetermination is due. If the fourth day occurs on a holiday or on a Sunday, then the packet is sent on the next business day. This allows time to process the redetermination before the end of the redetermination month. BAM 210, p. 20. The group loses its right to uninterrupted FAP benefits if it fails to do any of the following: file the FAP redetermination by the timely filing date; participate in the scheduled interview; submit verifications timely, provided the requested submittal date is after the timely filing date. BAM 210, p. 21. For FAP, benefits stop at the end of the benefit period unless a redetermination is completed, and a new benefit period is certified. BAM 210, p. 3.

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, May 1, 2024, pp. 7-8.

In this case, Petitioner's FAP case was due for Redetermination in August 2025. On July 5, 2025, a Redetermination form was sent to Petitioner with a due date of July 25, 2025, and stating a telephone interview would be held on August 4, 2025 between 9:30 am and 11:30 am. It was noted that FAP benefits would end if the form was not submitted. (Exhibit A, pp. 10-16). The August 4, 2025 interview was marked as a no show because the Redetermination form had not been returned. (Exhibit A, pp. 3 and 31; HF Testimony). On August 4, 2025, a Notice of Missed Appointment was sent to Petitioner stating she missed her scheduled interview and/or failed to return the redetermination packet prior to the interview. The notice stated it was now Petitioner's responsibility to reschedule the interview and/or return the redetermination packet before August 31, 2025, or the case would be denied. (Exhibit A, p. 17).

On August 5, 2025, Petitioner submitted a Renew Benefits form online for the FAP case. JC was listed as a household member. It was reported that JC had income from self-employment. (Exhibit A, pp. 18-19). On August 11, 2025, a Verification Checklist was issued to Petitioner requesting verification of self-employment for JC with a due date of August 21, 2025. (Exhibit A, pp. 20-22). On August 22, 2025, a Notice of Case Action was issued denying FAP benefits effective September 1, 2025, based on not returning the verification of self-employment for JC. (Exhibit A, pp. 23-27).

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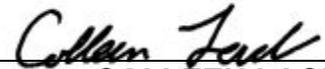
Petitioner testified that her husband was confused and did not know how to fill out the self-employment form. Petitioner also noted that during the prehearing conference, they learned that income from an LLC is not self-employment so a different verification would be needed for his income instead of the self-employment form. (Petitioner Testimony).

Overall, the Department's determination to close Petitioner's FAP benefit case must be upheld. Verification of JC's income was requested on August 11, 2025, and there was no evidence that the requested verification was received before the end of the current benefit period. Similarly, there was no evidence that Petitioner contacted the Department to request assistance or clarify the verification request before the prehearing conference was completed. The redetermination process was not fully completed and a new benefit period was not certified. Therefore, the closure of the FAP case was 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 closed Petitioner's FAP benefit case.

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



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**COLLEEN LACK**  
**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://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

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:**

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