



Date Mailed: December 15, 2025
Docket No.: 25-035986
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]

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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.

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.

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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 November 20, 2025. Petitioner appeared and represented herself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Becky Fraser, Family Independence Manager. Marissa Alvarado, Case Worker from the Kent County Prosecutor's Office's Family Law Division, appeared as a witness for the Department.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's application for State Emergency Relief (SER) assistance for energy services due to a group member's non-cooperation with child support obligations?

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, the Department received an application for SER assistance from Petitioner for payment of an electric bill. Petitioner reported that her household included herself; her [REDACTED]-year-old daughter, [REDACTED] (Daughter); and Daughter's four children (Children), including [REDACTED] (RO) and [REDACTED] (MI). (Exhibit A, pp. 8 – 15).
1. On September 5, 2025, the Department sent Petitioner a SER Decision Notice (SERDN) that denied Petitioner assistance due to Daughter's non-cooperation with child support obligations. (Exhibit A, pp. 23 – 24).
2. On September 30, 2025, the Department received a request for hearing from Petitioner, disputing denial of her application for SER assistance. (Exhibit A, pp. 4 – 6).

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 State Emergency Relief (SER) program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b. The SER program is administered by the Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.7001-.7049.

In this case, Petitioner applied for SER assistance for payment of an electric bill. The Department denied Petitioner's application due to Daughter's non-cooperation with child support requirements. Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the Department's denial of her application.

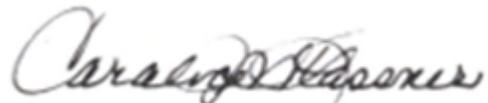
SER prevents serious harm to individuals and families and assists applicants with safe, decent, affordable housing and other essential needs when an emergency situation arises. ERM 101 (March 2013), p. 1. The SER group generally includes all persons who occupy the same home, and one of the eligibility criteria for SER assistance is that all adult members of the SER group must take action within their ability to help themselves, including obtaining potential resources and/or apply for assistance. ERM 101, p. 1; ERM 201 (October 2023), p. 1; ERM 203 (October 2018), p. 1. Potential resources include child support payable to a custodial parent and custodial parents have a responsibility to cooperate with the Department, including the Office of Child Support (OCS), the Friend of the Court (FOC), and the prosecuting attorney, to establish paternity and/or obtain support from an absent parent. ERM 203, pp. 1 – 2; BEM 255 (January 2025), pp. 1, 9 – 10. Groups that are non-cooperative with the Office of Child Support are ineligible for SER until they become cooperative. ERM 203, p. 2.

There was no dispute that Daughter lives with Petitioner, is the custodial parent of RO and MI, and is a member of Petitioner's SER group. Although Petitioner testified that Daughter has always cooperated with OCS, the Department credibly testified that Daughter was non-cooperative with OCS from January 11, 2023 to November 1, 2025, for RO; and from October 25, 2024 to September 30, 2025, for MI; and there was no evidence presented to contradict the Department's testimony. Therefore, because Daughter was a member of the SER group and was non-cooperative with OCS at the time of Petitioner's [REDACTED] 2025 application, the Department properly denied her request for SER assistance.

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 denied Petitioner's [REDACTED] 2025, application for SER assistance.

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



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. 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.

25-035986



Via Electronic Mail:

Respondent

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Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
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