



**Date Mailed:** December 11, 2025  
**Docket No.:** 25-038503  
**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.

这是一份重要的法律文件。请让别人翻译文件。

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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 November 19, 2025. Petitioner appeared and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Melissa Stanley, Hearings Facilitator (HF).

During the hearing proceeding, the Department's Hearing Summary packets were admitted as Exhibit A, pp. 1-114 and Exhibit B, pp. 1-128.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's eligibility for 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 September 6, 2024, a Notice of Case Action was issued to Petitioner approving FAP benefits for the period of October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025. [REDACTED] (RP) was included as a household member. A Simplified Six Month Review was included explaining the simplified reporting process. (Exhibit A, pp. 23-29; Exhibit B, pp. 23-29)
2. On January 16, 2025, a Notice of Case Action was issued to Petitioner approving FAP benefits for the period of February 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025. RP was included as a household member. A Simplified Six Month Review was included explaining the simplified reporting process. (Exhibit A, pp. 30-36; Exhibit B, pp. 30-36)
3. On March 6, 2025, a Notice of Case Action was issued to Petitioner approving FAP benefits for the period of April 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025. RP was included as a household member. A Simplified Six Month Review was included explaining the simplified reporting process. (Exhibit A, pp. 37-43; Exhibit B, pp. 37-43)

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4. On August 4, 2025, a Redetermination form was sent to Petitioner for the FAP case with a due date of August 25, 2025 and stating that a telephone interview was scheduled for September 10, 2025. This form states that the FAP benefits will end on September 30, 2025, and the redetermination form must be submitted by September 15, 2025, in order to receive uninterrupted benefits. The form also advises that if Petitioner does not keep her interview appointment, submit the completed form, and submit all required proofs by the due dates her benefits may be expired, canceled, delayed, or reduced. (Exhibit A, pp. 44-45; Exhibit B, pp. 44-45)
  5. On August 20, 2025, Petitioner submitted an online Renew Benefits form. It was documented that household member RP had income from employment with [REDACTED]. Petitioner noted that nothing at all had changed, everything was the same. (Exhibit A, pp. 46-47; Exhibit B, pp. 46-47)
  6. On September 10, 2025, Petitioner called and asked for the telephone interview to be rescheduled for September 17, 2025. (Exhibit A, p. 3; Exhibit B, p. 3)
  7. On September 10, 2025, an Appointment Notice was issued to Petitioner for the September 17, 2025 telephone appointment. (Exhibit A, p. 48; Exhibit B, p. 48)
  8. On September 10, 2025, a Verification Checklist was issued to Petitioner requesting verification of wages for RP for employment with [REDACTED] with a due date of September 22, 2025. One of the requested types of proof was the last 30 days of check stubs or earnings statements. (Exhibit A, pp. 54-56; Exhibit B, pp. 54-56)
  9. On September 17, 2025, an interview was held with Petitioner. (Exhibit A, p. 3; Exhibit B, p. 3)
  10. On September 17, 2025, the Department was able to verify RP's income from employment with [REDACTED] with a report from The Work Number. RP's employment status was listed as active and his most recent pay date was September 5, 2025. (Exhibit B, p. 57-59)
  11. The September 17, 2025 report from The Work Number also showed that RP was employed at [REDACTED] with a hire date of September 1, 2025. Earnings for a single pay date of September 12, 2025 were shown. (Exhibit B, pp. 59-60)
  12. On September 19, 2025, a Verification Checklist was issued to Petitioner requesting verification of wages for RP for employment with [REDACTED] with a due date of September 29, 2025. One of the requested types of proof was the last 30 days of check stubs or earnings statements. (Exhibit A, p. 106; Exhibit B, p. 107)
  13. On September 29, 2025, Petitioner submitted a Change Report stating RP started new employment with [REDACTED] and his first check was issued on  
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September 11, 2025. Petitioner stated she just found out about the job and RP was refusing to tell her how many hours he works or what he gets paid. Partial pictures of check stubs were submitted, which did not show the gross pay amounts. (Exhibit A, pp. 57-61; Exhibit B, pp. 61-66)

14. On October 17, 2025, Petitioner contacted the Department asking about her case and the Department was able to verify RP's income with a report from The Work Number. (Exhibit A, pp. 3 and 62-65; Exhibit B, p. 3)
15. On October 17, 2025, a Notice of Case Action was issued stating FAP benefits were denied effective October 1, 2025 based on income in excess of program limits. (Exhibit A, pp. 66-70; Exhibit B, pp. 67-71)
16. On October 22, 2025, Petitioner filed a hearing request alleging the October 2025 FAP benefits were unlawfully withheld. (Exhibit A, pp. 8-10; Exhibit B, pp. 8-10)

### **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.

In this case, Petitioner asserts that the Department unlawfully withheld October 2025 FAP benefits for her household.

Department policy addressing benefit reinstatement when a timely hearing request is filed indicates that for FAP, reinstatement applies only if the benefit period has not expired. BAM 600, July 1, 2025, p. 26.

Department policy addressing Redeterminations can be found in BAM 210:

The Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) must periodically redetermine or renew an individual's eligibility for active programs. The redetermination/renewal process includes thorough review of all eligibility factors. BAM 210, July 1, 2025, p. 1.

### **FAP Only**

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Benefits stop at the end of the benefit period unless a redetermination is completed and a new benefit period is certified. If the client does not begin the redetermination process, allow the benefit period to expire. The redetermination process begins when the client files a MDHHS-1171, Assistance Application and MDHHS 1171-FAP, Supplement- Food Assistance Program; MDHHS-1010, Redetermination and MDHHS-1010-FAP; MDHHS-1171, filing form. See Subsequent Processing in this item. BAM 210, p. 3.

### **FAP Only**

#### **Timely Filing Date**

In order to receive uninterrupted benefits (benefits available on their 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.

#### **Untimely Filing Date**

#### **FAP Only**

Any FAP redetermination form not submitted timely (see above) has the same processing timeframe as an initial application (30 days from the date the redetermination was filed); see FAP Client Failure to Meet Redetermination Requirements in this item. BAM 210, p. 16.

#### **FAP Only**

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.

**Note:** The DHS-3503, Verification Checklist, should be sent after the redetermination interview for any missing verifications allowing 10 days for their return. BAM 210, p. 17.

#### **FAP Only**

If the income information reported by Equifax differs from what the client reported, verification must be requested or a documented discussion with the client must be completed. BAM 210, p. 19.

#### **FAP Only**

The FAP redetermination must be completed by the end of the current benefit period so that the client can receive uninterrupted benefits by the normal issuance date. If timely redetermination procedures are met, but too late to meet the normal issuance date, issue benefits within five workdays. Bridges will issue a payment for lost benefits if the client is **not** at fault for delayed processing that prevented participation in the first month.

BAM 210, p. 20.

## **FAP CLIENT FAILURE TO MEET REDETERMINATION REQUIREMENTS**

### **FAP Only**

#### **Delays**

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.

Any of these reasons can cause a delay in processing the redetermination. When the group is at fault for the delay, the redetermination must be completed within 30 days of the compliance date. If there is no refusal to cooperate and the group complies by the 30th day, issue benefits within 30 days of the compliance date. Benefits are not prorated.

#### **Subsequent Processing**

If a client files an application for redetermination before the end of the benefit period, but fails to take a required action, the case is denied at the end of the benefit period. Proceed as follows if the client takes the required action within 30 days after the end of the benefit period:

- Re-register the redetermination application using the date the client **completed** the process.
- If the client is eligible, prorate benefits from the date the redetermination application was registered.

BAM 210, pp. 21-22.

The BAM 210 policy is in accordance with the federal regulations:

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**(2) Applications for recertification.** The State agency shall provide households that have filed an application by the 15th of the last month of their certification period with either a notice of eligibility or a notice of denial by the end of the current certification period if the household has complied with all recertification requirements. The State agency shall provide households that have received a notice of expiration at the time of certification, and have timely reapplied, with either a notice of eligibility or a notice of denial not later than 30 days after the date of the household's initial opportunity to obtain its last allotment.

7 CFR 273.10(f)(2)

**Applications for recertification.** The State agency shall provide households that have filed an application by the 15th of the last month of their certification period with either a notice of eligibility or a notice of denial by the end of the current certification period if the household has complied with all recertification requirements. The State agency shall provide households that have received a notice of expiration at the time of certification, and have timely reapplied, with either a notice of eligibility or a notice of denial not later than 30 days after the date of the household's initial opportunity to obtain its last allotment.

7 CFR 273.10(g)(2).

**General.** No household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with [§ 273.10\(f\)](#) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7 CFR 273.14(a).

**recertification process —**

**(1) Notice of expiration.**

(i) The State agency shall provide households certified for one month or certified in the second month of a two-month certification period a notice of expiration (NOE) at the time of certification. The State agency shall provide other households the NOE before the first day of the last month of the certification period, but not before the first day of the next-to-the-last month. Jointly processed PA and GA households need not receive a

separate SNAP notice if they are recertified for SNAP benefits at the same time as their PA or GA redetermination.

(ii) Each State agency shall develop a NOE. The NOE must contain the following:

(A) The date the certification period expires;

(B) The date by which a household must submit an application for recertification in order to receive uninterrupted benefits;

(C) The consequences of failure to apply for recertification in a timely manner;

7 CFR 273.14(b)(1).  
(rest of list omitted by ALJ)

**Application.** The State agency must develop an application to be used by households when applying for recertification. It may be the same as the initial application, a simplified version, a monthly reporting form, or other method such as annotating changes on the initial application form. A new household signature and date is required at the time of application for recertification. The provisions of §273.2(c)(7) regarding acceptable signatures on applications also apply to applications used at recertification. The recertification process can only be used for those households which apply for recertification prior to the end of their current certification period, except for delayed applications as specified in paragraph (e)(3) of this section. The process, at a minimum, must elicit from the household sufficient information that, when added to information already contained in the casefile, will ensure an accurate determination of eligibility and benefits. The State agency must notify the applicant of information which is specified in §273.2(b)(2), and provide the household with a notice of required verification as specified in §273.2(c)(5).

7 CFR 273.14(b)(2).

**Verification.** Information provided by the household shall be verified in accordance with [§ 273.2\(f\)\(8\)\(i\)](#). The State agency shall provide the household a notice of required verification as provided in [§ 273.2\(c\)\(5\)](#) and notify the household of the date by which the verification requirements must be satisfied. The household must be allowed a minimum of 10 days to provide required verification information.

7 CFR 273.14(b)(4).

**Timely processing.**

(1) Households that were certified for one month or certified for two months in the second month of the certification period and have met all required application procedures shall be notified of their eligibility or

ineligibility. Eligible households shall be provided an opportunity to receive benefits no later than 30 calendar days after the date the household received its last allotment.

(2) Other households that have met all application requirements shall be notified of their eligibility or ineligibility by the end of their current certification period. In addition, the State agency shall provide households that are determined eligible an opportunity to participate by the household's normal issuance cycle in the month following the end of its current certification period.

7 CFR 243.14(d).

***Delayed processing.***

(1) If an eligible household files an application before the end of the certification period but the recertification process cannot be completed within 30 days after the date of application because of State agency fault, the State agency must continue to process the case and provide a full month's allotment for the first month of the new certification period. The State agency shall determine cause for any delay in processing a recertification application in accordance with the provisions of [§ 273.3\(h\)\(1\)](#).

(2) If a household files an application before the end of the certification period, but fails to take a required action, the State agency may deny the case at that time, at the end of the certification period, or at the end of 30 days. Notwithstanding the State's right to issue a denial prior to the end of the certification period, the household has 30 days after the end of the certification period to complete the process and have its application be treated as an application for recertification. If the household takes the required action before the end of the certification period, the State agency must reopen the case and provide a full month's benefits for the initial month of the new certification period. If the household takes the required action after the end of the certification period but within 30 days after the end of the certification period, the State agency shall reopen the case and provide benefits retroactive to the date the household takes the required action. The State agency shall determine cause for any delay in processing a recertification application in accordance with the provisions of [§ 273.3\(h\)\(1\)](#).

7 CFR 243.14(e).

In this case, the Department's actions were in accordance with the BAM policies and the CFRs.

Petitioner was advised that the FAP certification period ended September 30, 2025. The Notices of Case Action issued September 6, 2024, January 16, 2025, March 6, 2025 approved FAP benefits for Petitioner's household for a certification period that ended

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September 30, 2025. (Exhibit A, pp. 23-43; Exhibit B, pp. 23-43). Additionally, the August 4, 2025, Redetermination form was sent to Petitioner for the FAP case with a due date of August 25, 2025 and stating that a telephone interview was scheduled for September 10, 2025. This form states that the FAP benefits will end on September 30, 2025, and the redetermination form must be submitted by September 15, 2025, in order to receive uninterrupted benefits. The form also advises that if Petitioner does not keep her interview appointment, submit the completed form, and submit all required proofs by the due dates her benefits may be expired, canceled, delayed, or reduced. (Exhibit A, pp. 44-45; Exhibit B, pp. 44-45). The August 4, 2024 Redetermination form met the requirements of 7 CFR 273.14(b)(1) to notify Petitioner of the date the certification period expires; the date by which a household must submit an application for recertification in order to receive uninterrupted benefits; and the consequences of failure to apply for recertification in a timely manner. Petitioner submitted the Renew Benefits on August 20, 2025. (Exhibit A, pp. 46-47). Accordingly, she was not entitled to receive uninterrupted benefits based on when the Redetermination was submitted.

Parents and their children under 22 years of age who live together must be in the same FAP group. BAM 212, June 1, 2025, p. 1. See also 7 CFR 273.1(b). The available evidence supports that RP is the father of children in the household and that he lives at that address. (Exhibit B, pp. 80-82). Accordingly, the Department properly sought verification of RP's income as part of the FAP redetermination process.

On September 17, 2025, an interview was held with Petitioner. (Exhibit A, p. 3; Exhibit B, p. 3). At that time, the Department attempted to assist with obtaining needed income verifications for RP. On September 17, 2025, the Department was able to verify RP's income from employment with At [REDACTED] with a report from The Work Number. RP's employment status was listed as active and his most recent pay date was September 5, 2025. (Exhibit B, p. 57-59). The September 17, 2025 report from The Work Number also showed that RP was employed at [REDACTED] with a hire date of September 1, 2025. Earnings for a single pay date of September 12, 2025 were shown. (Exhibit B, pp. 59-60). The Department notified Petitioner that additional verification was needed for RP's employment with [REDACTED]. On September 19, 2025, a Verification Checklist was issued to Petitioner requesting verification of wages for RP for employment with [REDACTED] with a due date of September 29, 2025. One of the requested types of proof was the last 30 days of check stubs or earnings statements. (Exhibit A, p. 106; Exhibit B, p. 107).

On September 29, 2025, Petitioner submitted a Change Report stating RP started new employment with [REDACTED] and his first check was issued on September 11, 2025. Petitioner stated she just found out about the job and RP was refusing to tell her how many hours he works or what he gets paid. Partial pictures of check stubs were submitted, which did not show the gross pay amounts. (Exhibit A, pp. 57-61; Exhibit B, pp. 61-66). The submitted check stubs were not acceptable verification of RP's income because they were incomplete. Therefore, Petitioner lost the right to uninterrupted FAP benefits because she failed to submit acceptable verification timely. The FAP certification period was properly allowed to expire.

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Petitioner asserts that the Department should have: notified her that the submitted check stubs were not complete and further verification was needed; and extended the FAP certification period to include October 2025. This would have allowed her time to provide the needed information, or for the Department to assist her to gather the needed information by obtaining it through The Work Number as they did on October 17, 2025. Petitioner also asserted that the Department improperly made the FAP eligibility determination retroactive because the October 17, 2025 Notice of Case Action stated FAP benefits were denied effective October 1, 2025. (Exhibit A, pp. 66-70; Exhibit B, pp. 67-71; Petitioner Testimony). At that point, the certification period could not be extended because Petitioner did not timely provide acceptable documentation for the verification that had already been requested on the September 19, 2025 Verification Checklist. Further, the Department had already attempted to assist by pulling a report from The Work Number on September 17, 2025, which did not provide sufficient information. There was no evidence that Petitioner requested any further assistance with obtaining the needed information by September 29, 2025. The delayed processing related to obtaining verification of RP's income from [REDACTED] was not a Department error.

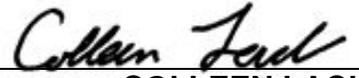
As discussed above, Petitioner was provided notice that the certification period expired on September 30, 2025 and Petitioner was not eligible for uninterrupted FAP benefits after that date. Regarding the provisions in 7 CFR 273.14(e)(2), Petitioner filed the Renew Benefits from before the end of the certification period but failed to take the required action of timely providing acceptable verification of RP's income from Best Auto before the end of the certification period because the submitted check stubs were incomplete. Therefore, the Department properly did not reopen the case and provide a full month's benefits for the initial month of the new certification period (October 2025). The required action was taken on October 17, 2025 when the Department was able to obtain an updated report from the Work Number, with Petitioner's permission, which did provide the needed wage information. October 17, 2025 was after the end of the certification period, but within 30 days after the end of the certification period. Pursuant to 7 CFR 273.14(e)(2) the Department would only be required to reopen the case and provide benefits retroactive to the date the household took the required action. The FAP eligibility determination on the October 17, 2025 Notice of Case Action related to the potential new certification period for the Redetermination and was not a retroactive action taken regarding any previously certified benefit period. While the Department made the determination as of October 1, 2025, it appears that they were only required to determine eligibility as of October 17, 2025, the date the required action was completed.

### **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 FAP benefits.

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



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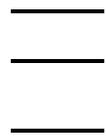
**COLLEEN LACK**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE**

**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:**    **Respondent**  
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