



Date Mailed: November 21, 2025
Docket No.: 25-038714
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

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[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 21, 2025

Docket No.: 25-038714

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 19, 2025. Petitioner participated and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) was represented by Jenee Murray, hearings facilitator.

ISSUE

The issue is whether MDHHS properly terminated Petitioner’s Food Assistance Program (FAP) eligibility.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The administrative law judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. As of April 2025, Petitioner was an ongoing FAP benefit recipient with a benefit period certified through May 2025.
1. On April 1, 2025, MDHHS mailed Petitioner a Semi-Annual Contact Report (SACR) to be completed and returned by April 21, 2025.
2. On May 10, 2025, MDHHS mailed Petitioner a Notice of Food Assistance (FAP) Closure warning that Petitioner’s FAP eligibility would end May 31, 2025, due to Petitioner not returning a SACR.
3. As of May 31, 2025, Petitioner had not completed and returned to MDHHS a SACR.
4. On June 16, 2025, Petitioner submitted to MDHHS a Semi-Annual Contact Report (SACR).
5. On October 22, 2025, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the termination of FAP benefits.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The 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. MDHHS administers the FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001-.3011. MA policies are contained in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), and Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

Petitioner requested a hearing, in part, to dispute the absence of FAP benefits in May and September 2025.¹ Exhibit A, pp. 5-7. MDHHS presented a Benefits Summary listing past FAP issuances to Petitioner. Exhibit A, p. 40. The summary verified that MDHHS issued Petitioner FAP benefits of \$151 in May 2025 and \$191 in September 2025. Though Petitioner believed that she was not issued in May and September 2025, the evidence verified otherwise.

Petitioner also requested a hearing to dispute the absence of FAP benefits in June and July 2025. Exhibit A, pp. 5-7. MDHHS contended that Petitioner's FAP eligibility properly ended May 31, 2025, due to Petitioner's failure to return a SACR.

For all programs, a complete redetermination is required at least every 12 months. BAM 210 (April 2025) p. 3. For FAP benefits, a complete SACR must be submitted by groups with countable earnings and a 12-month benefit period. *Id.*, p. 11. Bridges, the MDHHS database, automatically sends an SACR at the beginning of the fifth month for cases assigned a 12-month benefit period. *Id.*, If MDHHS does not register the SACR as received by the 10th day of the sixth month, a Notice of Food Assistance (FAP) Closure is mailed to the client explaining that the SACR and all required verifications must be returned by the last day of the month, or the case will close. *Id.*, p. 12.

If MDHHS does not receive the SACR by the 10th day of the sixth month, a Notice of Food Assistance (FAP) Closure is sent; this reminder notice explains that the client must return the SACR and all required verifications by the last day of the month, or the case will close. *Id.*, p. 14. If the SACR is not received by the last working day of the redetermination month, MDHHS is to close the case without further notice to the client. *Id.*

MDHHS mailed a SACR to Petitioner on April 1, 2025, stating a due date of April 21, 2025. Exhibit A, pp. 9-13. It was not disputed that Petitioner did not return the SACR to MDHHS by April 21, 2025. As a result, MDHHS mailed Petitioner a Notice of Food Assistance (FAP) Closure stating that Petitioner's FAP eligibility would end May 31,

¹ Arguably, Petitioner's hearing request should be dismissed for being received by MDHHS more than 90 days after written notice was issued. Because Petitioner's dispute partially involves an alleged failure by MDHHS to process, an analysis of the merits is proper.

2025, due to Petitioner not returning a SACR. Exhibit A, pp. 14-15. It was not disputed that Petitioner did not return a completed SACR until after May 2025.

Petitioner's hearing request stated that someone assisting her failed to timely return the SACR. Petitioner's statement implies that MDHHS should excuse the untimely returned SACR under the circumstances. MDHHS does not excuse an untimely returned SACR due to someone else's failure to timely return the document to MDHHS.

MDHHS received a completed SACR from Petitioner on June 16, 2025. Exhibit A, pp. 17-19. Presumably, Petitioner returned the SACR under the belief that MDHHS could process her FAP eligibility despite the tardy submission. Though MDHHS allows for "subsequent processing" of redetermination documents, the policy specifically applies to Redetermination forms and not SACRs (see BEM 210).

The evidence established that MDHHS properly requested a SACR from Petitioner which Petitioner failed to return until after the benefit certification period ending May 2025. Thus, MDHHS properly terminated Petitioner's eligibility beginning June 2025. Petitioner's recourse to regain FAP eligibility is to reapply.²

DECISION AND ORDER

The administrative law judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that MDHHS properly issued FAP benefits to Petitioner in May and September 2025. Additionally, MDHHS properly did not issue FAP benefits to Petitioner in June and July 2025. The actions taken by MDHHS are **AFFIRMED**.


CHRISTIAN GARDOCKI
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

² As it happened, Petitioner reapplied for FAP benefits on August 18, 2025. MDHHS approved Petitioner for benefits beginning with her application date.

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

MACOMB COUNTY DHHS STERLING HTS DIST 36
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MDHHS-MACOMB-36-HEARINGS@MICHIGAN.GOV

Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

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