



Date Mailed: January 20, 2026
Docket No.: 25-040750
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
MI [REDACTED]

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

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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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Docket No.: 25-040750

Case No.: [REDACTED]

Petitioner: [REDACTED]

HEARING DECISION

On October 27, 2025, Petitioner [REDACTED] requested a hearing to dispute the closure of Petitioner's Family Independence Program (FIP) cash assistance benefits. Following Petitioner's hearing request, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9, 45 CFR 205.10, and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. After due notice, a Teams videoconference hearing was held on January 15, 2026. Petitioner appeared and represented herself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Tanya Henderson, Eligibility Specialist, and Carrie Taylor, Family Independence Manager.

A 51-page packet of documents provided by the Department was admitted collectively as the Department's Exhibit A.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close Petitioner's FIP cash assistance benefits when it determined that Petitioner's husband Edward Davis failed to complete employment related activities without good cause?

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 was receiving FIP cash assistance from the Department based on a household size of 4 that included Petitioner, Petitioner's husband, and Petitioner's 2 children.
2. Petitioner's husband was required to attend a meeting on July 24, 2025, and September 4, 2025.
3. Petitioner's husband failed to attend the July 24, and September 4, 2025, meeting.
4. Petitioner's husband was required to submit completed job search logs by set deadlines. Exhibit A, p. 22.
5. On October 2, 2025, Petitioner's husband was required to submit job search logs for the week of September 7, 14, 21, and 28. *Id.* at p. 22.

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6. On October 2, 2025, Petitioner's husband was instructed to email the required job search logs by 5:00 p.m. on October 2, 2025.
 7. On October 3, 2025, Petitioner's husband advised Ms. O'Bryant that he lost internet on October 2, 2025, so he dropped off the required job search logs by giving them to a security guard at the Douglas building on October 2, 2025, at 4:45 p.m.
 8. The Department did not receive Petitioner's husband's required job search logs.
 9. On October 7, 2025, Ms. O'Bryant received and reviewed the required job search logs.
 10. The job search logs for the week of September 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2025, were not counted as they were repeats/re-copies of previous logs with dates changed.
 11. Because Petitioner's husband failed to attend the required meeting on July 24, and September 4, 2025 meeting, and failed to submit a job search log for the week of September 7, 14, and 21, and 28, 2025, a Notice of Noncompliance was mailed to Petitioner's last-known address of record finding Petitioner was in non-compliance with the requirements for FIP, and the Department closed Petitioner's case for 3 months. *Id.* at pp. 10-12. A triage meeting was also scheduled on October 9, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. *Id.*
 12. On October 3, 2025, a Notice of Case Action was mailed to Petitioner to notify Petitioner that Petitioner's FIP cash assistance benefits were closing beginning November 1, 2025, for failing to complete employment related activities without good cause.
 13. During the October 9, 2025 triage meeting, Petitioner stated that Petitioner's husband failed to attend the required meeting due to medical appointments for Petitioner and/or Petitioner's husband. As to the required job search logs, Petitioner argued that technical issues occurred with Petitioner's printer that led to the job search logs looking like copies. However, the logs were not copies. Therefore, Petitioner argued that Petitioner's husband had good cause for failing to attend the required meetings and submitting the required job search logs.
 14. Following the October 9, 2025 meeting, the Department determined that because Petitioner's husband failed to attend the required meetings and submit valid job search logs Petitioner did not have good cause for the noncompliance.
 15. On October 27, 2025, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the closure of Petitioner's FIP cash assistance benefits. *Id.* at pp. 3-8.

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 FIP was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-193, and 42 USC 601 to 679c. The Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers FIP pursuant to 45 CFR 233-260, MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101-.3131.

A FIP recipient is required to develop a plan and participate in activities that will strengthen the family and/or help them reach self-sufficiency. BEM 228 (April 1, 2025), p. 1. To accomplish this objective, each FIP recipient is required to participate in employment and self-sufficiency-related activities and to accept employment when offered. BEM 233A (October 1, 2022), p. 1. An individual who fails without good cause to participate must be penalized. *Id.* Good cause is a valid reason for noncompliance with employment and/or self-sufficiency related activities that are based on factors that are beyond the control of the individual. *Id.* at 4. The penalty for non-compliance without good cause is FIP closure. *Id.* at 8.

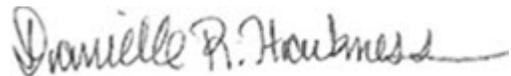
In this case, the Department closed Petitioner's FIP cash assistance benefits because Petitioner's husband failed to attend a required meeting on July 24, and September 4, 2025, and failed to submit a valid job search log for the week of September 7, 14, and 21, and 28, 2025. As to Petitioner's husband's failure to attend the July 24, and September 4, 2025 meeting, Petitioner indicated that Petitioner's husband was unable to attend the required meetings due to medical appointments for Petitioner or Petitioner's husband.

As to Petitioner's husband's failure to complete job search logs, Petitioner testified that technical issues occurred with Petitioner's printer that led to the job search logs looking like copies. However, the logs were not copies. However, no evidence was provided to show that the Department failed to act in accordance with Department policy. Based on the evidence presented, the Department properly closed Petitioner's FIP cash assistance benefits because Petitioner failed to establish good cause for Petitioner's husband's failure to complete employment/self-sufficiency related activities.

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 its policies and the applicable law when it closed Petitioner's FIP cash assistance benefits effective November 1, 2025, due to Petitioner's husband's failure to complete the required employment/self-sufficiency related activities.

IT IS ORDERED the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.



DANIELLE R. HARKNESS
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.

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Via Electronic Mail:

Respondent

KALAMAZOO COUNTY DHHS
427 E ALCOTT ST
KALAMAZOO, MI 49001

MDHHS-KALAMAZOO-HEARINGS@MICHIGAN.GOV

Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]