

## ISSUE

Did MDHHS properly deny Petitioner's **REDACTED**, 2025 SDA application?

## FINDINGS OF FACT

The undersigned, based upon the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. On January 26, 2026, a hearing was held concerning Petitioner's SDA application under MOAHR docket no. 25-042962.
2. On January 28, 2026, the ALJ issued a Hearing Decision in the matter.
3. The Findings of Fact numbers 1 through 4 in the Hearing Decision are incorporated by reference. Additional Findings of Fact are made as follows:
  - 2a. The forms and verifications requested in the DDS packet sent by MDHHS to Petitioner on October 20, 2025 were due back to MDHHS on October 30, 2025. (Exhibit A, p. 10)
  - 3a. On November 4, 2025, MDHHS received the requested forms from Petitioner.
4. On February 17, 2026, the MOAHR received the AHR's timely request for reconsideration, which is granted herein.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

MDHHS policies are contained in the Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Reference Tables Manual (RFT), and Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1 *et seq.* MDHHS (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the SDA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435; MCL 400.10 of the Social Welfare Act.; and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3151 to R 400.3180.

In connection with filing an SDA application, MDHHS must request from the applicant, and the applicant must submit completed to MDHHS, a DHS-3975, Reimbursement Authorization; a DHS-49-F, Medical-Social Questionnaire; a DHS-1555, Authorization to Release Protected Health Information; and verification of a Social Security Administration (SSA) application (or appeal). These forms are mandatory. BAM 815 (January 2025), pp. 4-5. MDHHS must assist the client or representative in completing the DHS-49-F and DHS-1555 if they are unable to complete them themselves. BAM 815, p. 4. However, if

the applicant or representative does not return the forms to MDHHS timely, MDHHS must deny the application. BAM 815,p. 2.

Here, MDHHS sent Petitioner a Medical Determination Verification Checklist in connection with his **REDACTED**, 2025 SDA application, requesting that Petitioner submit to MDHHS proof of an application for SSA disability benefits and completed DHS-0049-F, Medical Social Questionnaire, DHS-1555, Authorization to Release Protected Health information; and DHS-3975, Reimbursement Authorization. (Exhibit A, pp. 10-11). Although the Hearing Decision stated that these documents were due back to MDHHS on December 30, 2025, this was a typographical error by the ALJ. The Medical Determination Verification Checklist stated that the documents were due back to MDHHS on October 30, 2025. Furthermore, MDHHS sent Petitioner a Quick Note on October 20, 2025, when it sent the Medical Determination Verification Checklist that explained how the forms were to be completed and ended with the following sentence “If the forms are not received by the due date the cash will be denied the following day.” (Exhibit A, p. 12) The evidence at the hearing established that MDHHS did not receive the requested documents by October 30, 2025. There was no evidence that Petitioner nor his representative requested any assistance from MDHHS. On October 31, 2025 it sent Petitioner a Notice of Case Action denying the SDA application. (Exhibit A, pp. 6-9)

Because the evidence at the hearing established that the forms requested in connection with the SDA application were due to MDHHS by October 30, 2025, but were not received by MDHHS until November 4, 2025, MDHHS properly denied Petitioner’s **REDACTED**, 2025 SDA application. Although the ALJ referenced the incorrect date for the due date of the documents in the Hearing Decision, based on the facts in the case, the ALJ properly concluded that MDHHS properly denied Petitioner’s SDA application due to failure to timely return requested verifications.

Although the AHR contends in the reconsideration request that Petitioner had filed another SDA application that MDHHS failed to process, the issue at the hearing and addressed in the Hearing Decision was based on the request for hearing received by MDHHS from Petitioner on November 24, 2025. That hearing request concerned the denial of the **REDACTED**, 2025 application. (Exhibit A, pp. 3-5)

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

Based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the undersigned finds that that MDHHS properly denied Petitioner’s **REDACTED**, 2025 SDA application.

Accordingly, the MDHHS denial of Petitioner’s SDA application is **AFFIRMED**.