



Date Mailed: January 23, 2026

Docket No.: 25-043671

Case No.: [REDACTED]

Petitioner: [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.

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Petitioner: [REDACTED]
[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 January 7, 2026. Petitioner appeared and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Amanda Boobyer, AP Supervisor. Department Exhibit 1, pp. 1- 33 was received and admitted.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close Petitioner's Food Assistance Program (FAP) and Family Independence Program (FIP) benefits because she failed to complete required interview?

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 October [REDACTED] 2025, redetermination paperwork was sent to Petitioner.
2. On November [REDACTED] 2025, Notice of Missed Appointment was sent to Petitioner.
3. On November [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner submitted a completed Student Verification form for household member [REDACTED].
4. On November [REDACTED] 2025, Notice of Case Action was sent to Petitioner informing her that FIP would be closing effective December 1, 2025.
5. On November [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner submitted redetermination paperwork.
6. Petitioner testified at hearing that she called to reschedule her interview on November [REDACTED] and November [REDACTED] but was not able to reach anyone.

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 Family Independence Program (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.

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.

INTERVIEW REQUIREMENTS

FIP, State Disability Assistance (SDA), Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), CDC and FAP Interview requirements are determined by the program that is being redetermined.

FAP Only

An interview is required before denying a redetermination even if it is clear from the MDHHS-1010 or MDHHS-1171 or other sources that the group is ineligible. Indicate on the individual interviewed/applicant-details screen in Bridges who was interviewed and how the interview was held, such as by telephone, in person etc. If an interview is completed, the client or authorized representative (AR) must be offered a copy of their completed application. The copy must have the Social Security numbers for anyone listed and/or any mention of domestic violence, redacted. Medicaid Do not require an in-person interview as a condition of eligibility.

CDC Only

There is no redetermination interview requirement for CDC. Telephone

FIP Only

Note: The specialist must conduct a telephone interview with the head of household at redetermination before certifying continued eligibility. However, conduct an in-person interview if the client request one. When conducting a telephone interview, ask the head of household a question only the head of household could answer (such as last four digits of their Social Security number, date of birth, etc.) to ensure the identity of the caller. Document the case record with the answer. Each adult EDG member must sign

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the DHS-1538, Work and Self Sufficiency Rules, at redetermination. Send each adult EDG member in the home the DHS-1538 at redetermination. Each DHS-1538 must be signed and returned for all adult EDG members before FIP redetermination can be approved. The local office may exempt a relative caretaker or unrelated caretaker ineligible grantee and dependent child member adds from the FIP interview requirements. BAM 220

All Programs

The client is not entitled to benefits pending the hearing when the reason for the hearing request is a denial at application or, for FAP only, a denial at redetermination. BAM 600

In this case, on October █ 2025, redetermination paperwork was sent to Petitioner with an October 24, 2025, due date. On November █ 2025, Notice of Missed Interview was sent to Petitioner informing her that it was her responsibility to reschedule and complete the required interview. Petitioner testified at hearing that she attempted to schedule an interview but no one from the Department answered at the number she was given. The Department representative testified at hearing that Petitioner would have been given an option to leave a call back number and someone from the Department would have called back by the end of the day. Petitioner would have also had the option to wait on hold and someone from the Department would have taken her call within 60 minutes. Petitioner testified that she could not utilize the call back option or wait on hold for 60 minutes due to the nature of her job as a school bus driver.

Petitioner was required to complete an interview for her FIP and FAP benefits to continue. BAM 220 Petitioner missed the scheduled interview but was given opportunities to reschedule the interview by calling the Department and waiting on hold for up to 60 minutes or by leaving a call back number. Those options were reasonable and gave Petitioner sufficient opportunity to reschedule the required interview. Because Petitioner works as a █ it was inconvenient for her to reschedule the hearing using the Department's phone system, however it was not impossible. Petitioner had a responsibility to complete the required phone interview prior to the deadline and she failed to do. Therefore, the Department closures of FIP and FAP for failing to complete the required interview was proper and correct and consistent with Department policy. BAM 220

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 closed Petitioner's FAP and FIP cases for failing to complete required interview.

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



AARON MCCLINTIC
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://rs.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
CALHOUN COUNTY DHHS
190 E MICHIGAN AVE
PO BOX 490
BATTLE CREEK, MI 49016
**MDHHS-CALHOUN-
HEARINGS@MICHIGAN.GOV**



Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

