



Date Mailed: March 5, 2026

Docket No.: 25-048630

Case No.: [REDACTED]

Petitioner: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[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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Case No.: [REDACTED]

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 February 18, 2026. Petitioner appeared and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Jarrod Swartz, Hearing Coordinator. Department Exhibit 1, pp. 1-133 and Exhibit 2, pp. 1-2 were received and admitted.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's Family Independence Program (FIP) application for failing to verify disability and school attendance for a household member?

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 [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner applied for FIP benefits.
2. On October [REDACTED] 2025, a Medical Determination Verification Checklist was sent to Petitioner requesting verification of medical disability.
3. On November [REDACTED] 2025, a Notice of Case Action was sent to Petitioner informing her that her FIP application was denied for failing to return requested verifications related to school attendance of household members.
4. On November [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner applied for FIP.
5. On November [REDACTED] 2025, a Medical Determination Verification Checklist was sent to Petitioner requesting verification of medical disability.
6. On November [REDACTED] 2025, a Fast Referred Notice was sent to Petitioner explaining that she must complete Family Automated Screening Tool within 30 days.
7. On November 18, 2025, Petitioner requested a hearing.

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8. On December █ 2025, a Notice of Case Action was sent to Petitioner informing her that her application was denied because verification of employment services was not received for Petitioner and verification of student attendance was not received for █ █
 9. On October █ 2025, Petitioner submitted a Medical Needs Form completed by her psychiatric nurse practitioner dated October █ 2025, that opined that Petitioner was not able to work her previous jobs or any job.
 10. On February █ 2025, Petitioner submitted student attendance verification for █
 11. Department representative Jerrod Swartz testified at hearing that the Department did not receive the medical determination forms sent to Petitioner on October 23 and November 7. The Department also did not receive a Medical Needs form completed by a physician. The Department also did not receive a completed verification of school attendance for █ █ prior to the denial.

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.

Timeliness of Verifications

FIP, SDA, RCA, Child Development and Care (CDC), FAP

Allow the client 10 calendar days (or other time limit specified in policy) to provide the verification that is requested. Exception: For CDC, if the client cannot provide the verification despite a reasonable effort, extend the time limit at least once. Exception: For CDC, at redetermination, if a signed redetermination form is received prior to the end of the redetermination month, and verifications are missing or incomplete, send a VCL. Verifications are due by the end of the redetermination month, or within 10 days after they are requested, which ever allows more time. Verifications are considered to be timely if received by the date they are due. For electronically transmitted verifications (fax, email or Mi Bridges document upload), the date of the transmission is the receipt date. Verifications that are submitted after the close of regular business hours through the drop box or by delivery of a MDHHS representative are considered to be received

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the next business day. Send a negative action notice when: • The client indicates refusal to provide a verification, or • The time period given has elapsed and the client has not made a reasonable effort to provide it. BAM 130 (May 2024)

In this case, Department representative Jerrod Swartz credibly testified at hearing that the Department did not receive the medical determination forms sent to Petitioner on October 23 and November 7 prior to the deadline. The Department also did not receive a Medical Needs form completed by a physician. The Medical Needs form submitted by Petitioner was completed by a nurse practitioner and not a medical doctor. The Department also did not receive a completed verification of school attendance for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] prior to the denial.

Petitioner testified that she believes she submitted all verification forms that were sent to her and that she was receiving contradictory and confusing instructions from the Department. The verification checklists sent to Petitioner clearly instructed her regarding what verifications were required and the deadlines for submitting those verifications. Petitioner failed to provide sufficient evidence to establish that she submitted the required verifications prior to the deadline. Therefore, the denial of Petitioner's FIP application for failing to verify disability and school attendance for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was proper and correct and consistent with Department policy. BAM 130

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 denied Petitioner's FIP application for failing to verify disability for herself and school attendance for household member [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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://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.

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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

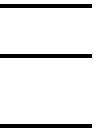
- by email to MOAHR-BSD-Support@michigan.gov, **OR**
- by fax at (517) 763-0155, **OR**
- by mail addressed to
Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules
Rehearing/Reconsideration Request
P.O. Box 30639
Lansing Michigan 48909-8139

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

KENT COUNTY DHHS
121 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR ST SE
STE 200
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49507
**MDHHS-KENT-
HEARINGS@MICHIGAN.GOV**



Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]