



Date Mailed: January 21, 2026

Docket No.: 25-042939

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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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 Jennifer Wheeler, Hearing Facilitator. Danielle Colbert and Amy Simon also appeared and testified for the Department. Department Exhibit 1, pp. 1-27 was received and admitted.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close Petitioner's Family Independence Program (FIP) benefits for failing to comply with PATH requirements?

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 a recipient of FIP benefits.
2. On October [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner contacted Michigan Works and let them know that she ended her employment.
3. On October [REDACTED] 2025, Notice of Noncompliance was sent to Petitioner alleging that Petitioner was in noncompliance because "quit or was fired from job". The notice states that this is Petitioner's second instance of noncompliance and a six month sanction will be implemented.
4. On October [REDACTED] 2025, Notice of Case Action was sent to Petitioner informing her that her FIP case would be closing effective December 1, 2025.
5. On October [REDACTED] 2025, a triage meeting was held, and Petitioner was found to not have good cause.
6. On November 11, 2025, Petitioner requested hearing disputing the closure of FIP.

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.

REFUSING SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT

Refusing suitable employment means doing any of the following: Voluntarily reducing hours or otherwise reducing earnings. Quitting a job (see exception below). Exception: This does not apply if: PATH verifies the client changed jobs or reduced hours in order to participate in a PATH approved education and training program. Firing for misconduct or absenteeism (not for incompetence). BEM 233A

GOOD CAUSE FOR NONCOMPLIANCE

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 noncompliant person. A claim of good cause must be verified and documented for member adds and recipients. Document the good cause determination in Bridges on the noncooperation screen as well as in case comments. If it is determined during triage the client has good cause, and good cause issues have been resolved, send the client back to PATH. There is no need for a new PATH referral, unless the good cause was determined after the negative action period. BEM 233A

In this case, on October █ 2025, Petitioner informed Michigan Works that she ended her employment. Petitioner testified at hearing that she was unable to get any hours that could accommodate her school schedule as well as the time she needed to transport her children to school. The Department pointed out that Petitioner had day care assistance hours that she could have used to allow her to work. A triage meeting was held, and Petitioner was found to not have good cause. Petitioner's explanation for quitting her job did not rise to the level of good cause. Therefore, the closure for noncompliance without good cause was proper and correct and consistent with Department policy. BEM 233A

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 FIP case for failing to comply with PATH requirements without good cause.

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.

25-042939

Via Electronic Mail:

Respondent
MUSKEGON COUNTY DHHS
2700 BAKER ST
PO BOX 4290
MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MI 49444
**MDHHS-MUSKEGON-
HEARING@michigan.gov**



Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

