

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny REDACTED's request for SER for burial assistance?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. REDACTED is Petitioner's mother.
2. On REDACTED 1999, Petitioner was born.
3. On REDACTED 2025, Petitioner passed away.
4. Petitioner's family made arrangements for Petitioner's burial with REDACTED.
5. REDACTED charged \$9,018.48 for its services, which included a burial with a memorial service.
6. On November 11, 2025, REDACTED applied for SER for burial assistance.
7. On November 17, 2025, Petitioner's burial and memorial service took place.
8. Petitioner's family paid the entire balance of \$9,018.48 to REDACTED.
9. On December 9, 2025, the Department issued a state emergency relief decision notice that denied REDACTED's request for SER for burial assistance.
10. REDACTED requested a hearing to dispute the Department's decision.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are contained in the Department of Health and Human Services 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 State Emergency Relief (SER) program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b. The SER program is administered by the Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.7001-.7049.

State Emergency Relief assists with burial expenses when the decedent's estate, mandatory copays, etc. are insufficient to pay for covered expenses. ERM 306 (October 1, 2024), p.1. For a burial with a memorial service, the maximum amount of SER available

was \$575.00. *Id.* at 11. Friends and relatives may supplement the SER burial payment in any amount up to \$6,000.00 for additional services. *Id.* at 9. However, when contributions exceed \$6,000.00, the Department must deny SER. *Id.* at 9. In this case, the contributions towards Petitioner's burial expenses exceeded \$6,000.00. REDACTED charged \$9,018.48 for its services, and the maximum amount of burial assistance available was only \$575.00, so the contribution amount was \$8,443.48. Since the contribution amount exceeded \$6,000.00, the Department was required to deny REDACTED's request for SER for burial assistance.

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 denied REDACTED's request for SER for burial assistance.

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