



FH
[REDACTED]

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
Division of Hearings and Appeals**

In the Matter of

[REDACTED]

DECISION

FOO/144894

PRELIMINARY RECITALS

Pursuant to a petition filed October 30, 2012, under Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.03(1), to review a decision by the Milwaukee Enrollment Services in regard to FoodShare benefits (FS), a hearing was held on November 20, 2012, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The issue for determination is whether the respondent properly denied petitioner's request for replacement FS benefits.

There appeared at that time and place the following persons:

PARTIES IN INTEREST:

Petitioner:

[REDACTED]

Respondent:

Department of Health Services
1 West Wilson Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

By: Katherine May
Milwaukee Enrollment Services
1220 W. Vliet St.
Milwaukee, WI 53205

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

Peter McCombs (telephonically)
Division of Hearings and Appeals

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner (CARES # [REDACTED]) is a resident of Milwaukee County.
2. Respondent received information that petitioner was residing in a home without heat, electricity or water service. On October 4, 2012, Community Advocates and Neighborhood Services inspected the home and ordered petitioner to vacate the premises.

3. Petitioner requested FS benefit replacement on October 26, 2012.

DISCUSSION

Food purchased with FoodShare benefits and destroyed in a household misfortune can be replaced up to the actual amount destroyed, but not more than the monthly allotment issued for that month, whichever is less. See, *FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook* § 7.1.1.5; 7 C.F.R. § 274.6(a)(3). The household must report the loss within 10 days, and file a request for replacement FS with the Department's agent. *FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook* § 7.1.1.5. A household misfortune includes, but is not limited to, a disaster, fire or flood, or like event causing destruction of food. 7 C.F.R. § 274.6(f)(2). Finally, the agency must determine that the destruction occurred in a household misfortune or disaster, such as, but not limited to, a fire or flood. 7 C.F.R. § 274.6(f)(2).

Petitioner testified that she lost a large amount of food due to the loss of electrical service to her residence. The loss was not timely reported to the respondent. Petitioner noted that she did not know that she could receive replacement benefits until informed of the benefit on October 2th or 26th by an employee with Community Advocates. I note that she applied for replacement benefits twenty-three days after the vacating her residence. The loss occurred sometime prior to the date that she vacated the premises.

Whether or not petitioner knew of the availability of replacement benefits is moot to my determination here. The FoodShare program's published rules in this regard are very clear. I cannot conclude that the respondent erred in enforcing the rules as written.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The respondent correctly denied petitioner's untimely request for replacement FS benefits.

THEREFORE, it is

ORDERED

That the petition for review herein be and the same is hereby dismissed.

REQUEST FOR A REHEARING

This is a final administrative decision. If you think this decision is based on a serious mistake in the facts or the law, you may request a rehearing. You may also ask for a rehearing if you have found new evidence which would change the decision. Your request must explain what mistake the Administrative Law Judge made and why it is important or you must describe your new evidence and tell why you did not have it at your first hearing. If you do not explain these things, your request will have to be denied.

To ask for a rehearing, send a written request to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, P.O. Box 7875, Madison, WI 53707-7875. Send a copy of your request to the other people named in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST." Your request for a rehearing must be received no later than 20 days after the date of the decision. Late requests cannot be granted.

The process for asking for a rehearing is in Wis. Stat. § 227.49. A copy of the statutes can be found at your local library or courthouse.

APPEAL TO COURT

You may also appeal this decision to Circuit Court in the county where you live. Appeals must be served and filed with the appropriate court no more than 30 days after the date of this hearing decision (or 30 days after a denial of rehearing, if you ask for one).

For purposes of appeal to circuit court, the Respondent in this matter is the Department of Health Services. After filing the appeal with the appropriate court, it must be served on the Secretary of that Department, either personally or by certified mail. The address of the Department is: 1 West Wilson Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703. A copy should also be sent to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, 5005 University Avenue, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53705-5400.

The appeal must also be served on the other "PARTIES IN INTEREST" named in this decision. The process for appeals to the Circuit Court is in Wis. Stat. §§ 227.52 and 227.53.

Given under my hand at the City of Madison,
Wisconsin, this 2nd day of January, 2013

\sPeter McCombs
Administrative Law Judge
Division of Hearings and Appeals



State of Wisconsin\DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

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The preceding decision was sent to the following parties on January 2, 2013.

Milwaukee Enrollment Services
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability