

I'm working on a story about people in Flint who are getting reported to CPS because they don't have water. Their children are coming into school – and they are not clean, stink or struggle because they do not have water at home. I have heard this is a big problem because of the service fees, shut off fees and cost of Flint water. Those on fixed incomes are struggling – even with help from DHS. I want to talk to someone in Genesee County about how common this is – what they are seeing (as far as families living together, going without water, illegally hooking up water, etc) Also – about the resources DHS is having to use to pay fees to hook up water once it is cut off.

Thank you,
Angie Hendershot
810-577-2465

From: Wheaton, Bob (DHS) [<mailto:WheatonB@michigan.gov>]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 5:30 PM
To: Hendershot, Angie
Subject: RE: Water

If you can send me the questions, I'll discuss with the people at Genesee County DHS and let you know.

From: Hendershot, Angie [<mailto:angie.hendershot@abc12.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 5:30 PM
To: Wheaton, Bob (DHS)
Subject: RE: Water

I thought your name was familiar! I'm sorry my voicemail was full -- I anchor the 5pm news so I can't answer my phone! I can send you the questions - but is there anyway I can actually speak with someone who works with these people in the Flint area? Thank you - Angie

From: Wheaton, Bob (DHS) [<mailto:WheatonB@michigan.gov>]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 5:25 PM
To: Hendershot, Angie
Subject: RE: Water

By the way, I hope all is well in Genesee County. I worked at The Flint Journal as a reporter from 2001-2007.

From: Wheaton, Bob (DHS)
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 5:23 PM
To: 'Hendershot, Angie'
Subject: RE: Water

Angie,

All communication on this issue is coming from our Office of Communications.

I can work with the Genesee County office to get you some information.

Can you tell me specifically what you need and what is your deadline?

Thanks,

Bob

From: Hendershot, Angie [<mailto:angie.hendershot@abc12.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 5:21 PM
To: Wheaton, Bob (DHS)
Subject: RE: Water

Hi Bob, thank you so much for returning my call. This helps. I'd really like to talk to someone at the Genesee County office about just how many families are going through this. Thank you - Angie

From: Wheaton, Bob (DHS) [<mailto:WheatonB@michigan.gov>]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 5:06 PM
To: Hendershot, Angie
Subject: Water

Hi Angie,

I just tried to return your call, and got a message that your voice mail box is full.

The Michigan Department of Human Services offers State Emergency Relief to eligible households that have had their water disconnected or that have received a disconnection notice. We can assist with up to \$200 for reconnection, and \$175 to pay past-due bills that are needed for someone to have water services restored or prevent disconnection. We always encourage people to try to work with their provider if they start falling behind on paying their bill so they don't reach the point of a disconnection.

I believe you also had some questions about the cost of water in Flint and the cost of reconnection. We really wouldn't want to speak to that. I would defer to the people at the city of Flint to provide that type of information.

Thanks,

Bob Wheaton
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