

STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF:



Claimant

Reg. No: 2008-24649

Issue No: 2006

Case No:



Load No:

Hearing Date:

February 4, 2010

Wayne County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jonathan W. Owens

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a hearing was held on February 4, 2010. Claimant's Representative appeared and testified.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close Claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) case for failure to provide verifications?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. On December 21, 2007, application received.
2. On January 9, 2008, mailed out 3503--to Claimant only.
3. On January 19, 2008, verifications due back to DHS. No verifications were returned.

4. On February 21, 2008, application was denied.
5. On May 20, 2008, the Claimant requested a hearing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105. Department policies are found in the Program Administrative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

In the present case, the Claimant's application was denied for failure to provide all requested verifications. [REDACTED], the Claimant's representative, asserts they never received any request for verifications. The Department failed to provide evidence that a request for additional verifications was sent to [REDACTED]. The Department worker who handled the case was not available for the hearing. Therefore, no testimony regarding the process or completion of this case could be given other than the documents of record. The only address or name listed on the verification checklist was the Claimant's.

Relevant policy can be found in PAM Item 130, pp.1-3:

Verification means documentation or other evidence to establish the accuracy of the client's verbal or written statements.

Obtain verification when:

- Required by policy. PEM items specify which factors and under what circumstances verification is required.
- Required as a local office option. The requirement must be applied the same for every client. Local requirements may not be imposed for MA, TMA-Plus or AMP without prior approval from central office.

- Information regarding an eligibility factor is unclear, inconsistent, incomplete or contradictory. The questionable information might be from the client or a third party.

Verification is usually required at application/re-determination and for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level.

Obtaining Verification

Tell the client what verification is required, how to obtain it, and the due date (see “Timeliness Standards” in this item). Use the DHS-3503, Verification Checklist, or for MA re-determinations, the DHS-1175, MA Determination Notice, to request verification.

Use the DHS-3503C, Verification Checklist for Citizenship/Identity to request documentation of citizenship or identity for Medicaid determinations.

The client must obtain required verification, but you must assist if they need and request help.

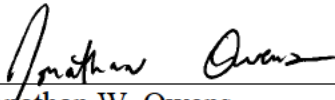
If neither the client nor you can obtain verification despite a reasonable effort, use the best available information. If no evidence is available, use your best judgment.

The Department is required by policy to send copies of all correspondence or requests for additional information to the client and their representative. The Department’s failure to do so hindered the Claimant’s representative from representing the Claimant and fulfilling the request made by the Department. This Administrative Law Judge finds the Department failed to act according to policy by not copying the representative regarding the need for additional verifications.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds the Department acted contrary to policy with regards to Claimant’s MA application.

Therefore, it is ORDERED that the Department's decision in this regard be and is hereby REVERSED. The Department shall re-register the Claimant's December 21, 2007 application and determine eligibility for MA.


Jonathan W. Owens
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 03/23/10

Date Mailed: 03/24/10

NOTICE: Administrative Hearings may order a rehearing or reconsideration on either its own motion or at the request of a party within 30 days of the mailing date of this Decision and Order. Administrative Hearings will not order a rehearing or reconsideration on the Department's motion where the final decision cannot be implemented within 90 days of the filing of the original request.

The Claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the mailing of the Decision and Order or, if a timely request for rehearing was made, within 30 days of the receipt date of the rehearing decision.

JWO/dj

cc:

