

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF: [REDACTED],  
Claimant

Reg. No: 2008-27950  
Issue No: 2021  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Load No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date:  
June 24, 2009  
Macomb County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: William A. Sundquist

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 telephone hearing was held on June 24, 2009.

ISSUES

- (1) Were excess assets established?
- (2) Are exceptions to DHS policy requirements allowed by ALJs?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

- (1) Negative action: MA-P application on June 13, 2008 was denied on June 18, 2008 based on excess assets per PEM 400.
- (2) Claimant agrees that the negative action was correct in accordance with DHS policy requirements; he wants an exception based on his financial hardship.

## 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 (DHS or department) 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).

### Excess Assets

Based on the undisputed facts above, the excess asset determination was correct under DHS policy PEM 400 requirements. Therefore, as a matter of law, excess assets were established.

### Exceptions to DHS Policy Requirements

Administrative law judges have no authority to make decisions on constitutional grounds, overrule statutes, overrule promulgated regulations or overrule or make exceptions to the department policy set out in the program manuals. Delegation of Hearing Authority, August 9, 2002, per PA 1939, Section 9, Act 280.

Therefore, as a matter of law, this ALJ has no legal authority to grant the claimant's requested exception to DHS policy requirements based on his financial hardship.

## DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that:

- (1) Excess assets were established, and
- (2) ALJs are not allowed to make exceptions to DHS policy requirements.

Accordingly, Medicaid denial is UPHELD.

/S/ \_\_\_\_\_  
William A. Sundquist  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Ismael Ahmed, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: July 20, 2009

Date Mailed: July 20, 2009

**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 receipt 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.

WAS/tg

cc:

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