

STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2008-8727
Issue No.: 3052
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Load No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: September 15, 2010
Genesee County DHS (2)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Michael J. Bennane

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9; and MCL 400.37, 7 CFR 273.16, MAC R 400.3130, and MAC R 400.3178 upon the Department of Human Service (Department) request for a disqualification hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on September 15, 2010. The respondent did appear and testify. The Department was represented by [REDACTED], recoupment specialist.

ISSUE

Is the Department entitled to recoup \$167.00 in FAP benefits?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. On November 15, 2007, the Department filed a hearing request to establish respondent allegedly received an over issuance of benefits; and the Department is requesting to recoup \$167.00 in FAP benefits for the period of September 1, 2007, through September 30, 2007.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Food Assistance Program (FAP) (formerly known as the Food Stamp (FS) program) is established by the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and is implemented by the federal regulations contained in Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the FAP program pursuant to CML 400.10 *et seq.*, and MAC R 400.3001-3015. Department policies are found in the Bridges

Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

In this case, the department requested a hearing; to establish an over issuance of benefits and to recoup the over issuance. The department's manuals provide the relevant policy statements and instructions for department caseworkers. In part, the policies provide:

BENEFIT OVERISSUANCES: PAM 700, p. 1

DEPARTMENT POLICY

All Programs

When a customer group receives more benefits than they are entitled to receive, the department must attempt to recoup the over issuance (OI).

The **Automated Recoupment System (ARS)** is the part of CIMS that tracks all FIP, SDA and FAP OIs and payments, issues automated collection notices and triggers automated benefit reductions for active programs.

An **over issuance (OI)** is the amount of benefits issued to the customer group in excess of what they were eligible to receive.

Over issuance Type identifies the cause of an over issuance.

Recoupment is a department action to identify and recover a benefit over issuance. PAM 700, p.1.

PREVENTION OF OVERISSUANCES

All Programs

The department must inform customers of their reporting responsibilities and act on the information reported within the standard of promptness.

During eligibility determination and while the case is active, customers are repeatedly reminded of reporting responsibilities, including:

- acknowledgments on the application form, **and**
- your explanation at application/re-determination interviews, **and**
- customer notices and program pamphlets.

The department must prevent OIs by following PAM 105 requirements and by informing the customer or authorized representative of the following:

- Applicants and recipients are required by law to give complete and accurate information about their circumstances.
- Applicants and recipients are required by law to promptly notify the department of any changes in circumstances within 10 days.
- Incorrect, late reported or omitted information causing an OI can result in cash repayment or benefit reduction.
- A timely hearing request can delete a proposed benefit reduction. If the department is upheld or the customer fails to appear at the hearing, the customer must repay the OI.

Record on the application the customer's comments and/or questions about the above responsibilities. PAM 700, p.2.

Here, the department continued FAP benefits to the respondent when she filed for a hearing upon the cessation of her FAP benefits on August 20, 2007. That hearing found that the closing of the respondent's FAP was correct. Because the department continued FAP benefits when the respondent requested a hearing and because that hearing found that the closing of the FAP benefits was correct the continuation of those benefits for the month of August resulted in an over issuance.

The evidence shows that the respondent received \$167.00 more than she was entitled to receive. The department is entitled to recoup the amount that was issued in excess of what the respondent was eligible to receive.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the clear and convincing evidence, decides the following:

The evidence does not establish that the respondent received an over issuance of FIP and FAP benefits. The department's request to recoup \$167.00 in FAP benefits is GRANTED.



Michael J. Bennane
Administrative Law Judge
For Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 9/29/2010

Date Mailed: 9/29/2010

NOTICE: The law provides that within 30 days of receipt of the above Decision and Order, the respondent may appeal it to the circuit court for the county in which he/she lives.

MJB/jlg

cc:

