

OF MICHIGAN  
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████

Respondent

Reg. No: 2009-10288

Issue No: 3055

Case No:

██████████

Load No:

Hearing Date:

April 29, 2009

Genesee County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Gary F. Heisler

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 Services (department) request for a disqualification hearing. After due notice, a hearing was held on April 29, 2009. Respondent did not appear.

ISSUE

Whether respondent committed an Intentional Program Violation (IPV) and whether respondent received an overissuance of benefits that the department is entitled to recoup?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

(1) On March 9, 2006, Respondent submitted an application for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits. The application listed three members of the household, Respondent, her fiancé ██████████ and their child. Respondent's signature on the application acknowledged the responsibility to report changes in income.

(2) On June 5, 2006, [REDACTED] began regular full time employment. Respondent did not report [REDACTED] income to the Department.

(3) On February 6, 2007, [REDACTED] income was discovered by the Department through a wage match.

(4) On March 12, 2007, the Department received a Verification of Employment (DHS Form 38) for [REDACTED] showing he was still employed and providing his exact earning since he began employment.

### 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 (DHS or department) administers the FAP program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MAC R 400.3001-3015. Department policies are found in the Program Administrative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

In this case, the department has requested a disqualification hearing to establish an overissuance of benefits as a result of an IPV and the department has asked that respondent be disqualified from receiving benefits. The department's manuals provide the following relevant policy statements and instructions for department caseworkers:

#### **PAM 720 INTENTIONAL PROGRAM VIOLATION**

#### **DEPARTMENT POLICY**

#### **All Programs**

Recoupment policies and procedures vary by program and overissuance (OI) type. This item explains Intentional Program

Violation (IPV) processing and establishment. [PAM 700](#) explains OI discovery, OI types and standards of promptness. [PAM 705](#) explains agency error and [PAM 715](#) explains client error.

## **DEFINITIONS**

### **All Programs**

**Suspected IPV** means an OI exists for which all three of the following conditions exist:

- The client **intentionally** failed to report information **or intentionally** gave incomplete or inaccurate information needed to make a correct benefit determination, **and**
- The client was clearly and correctly instructed regarding his or her reporting responsibilities, **and**
- The client has no apparent physical or mental impairment that limits his or her understanding or ability to fulfill their reporting responsibilities.

IPV is suspected when there is clear and convincing evidence that the client or CDC provider has intentionally withheld or misrepresented information for the **purpose** of establishing, maintaining, increasing or preventing reduction of program benefits or eligibility.

### **FAP Only**

IPV is suspected for a client who is alleged to have trafficked FAP benefits.

### **IPV**

### **FIP, SDA and FAP**

The client/authorized representative (AR) is determined to have committed an IPV by:

- A court decision.
- An administrative hearing decision.
- The client signing a DHS-826, Request for Waiver of Disqualification Hearing or DHS-830, Disqualification Consent Agreement or other recoupment and disqualification agreement forms.

In this case Respondent was clearly aware of the requirement to report changes in income for the household, Respondent chose not report [REDACTED] income in order to continue receiving Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits the household was no longer eligible for.

DECISION AND ORDER

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

(1) Respondent committed an intentional program violation by intentionally failing to report a group member's earned income in order to receive Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits the group was not eligible for.

(2) Respondent received an over-issuance of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits between September 1, 2006 and February 28, 2007, in the amount of \$1,570. The Department of Human Services is entitled to recoup the \$1,570 over-issuance.

/s/  
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Gary F. Heisler  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Ismael Ahmed, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: June 11, 2009

Date Mailed: June 12, 2009

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.

GFH [REDACTED]

cc: [REDACTED]