

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.: 2009-15046
Issue No.: 1038
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Load No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date:
April 15, 2009
Barry County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Michael J. Bennane

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 MSA 16.409 and MCL 400.37; MSA 16.437 upon the Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on April 15, 2009. The Claimant personally appeared and testified.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close the Claimant's Family Independence Program (FIP)?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. The claimant was a FIP recipient and required to participate in job related activities.
2. On January 28, 2009 the department sent the claimant a notice of noncompliance and of a triage to be held on February 11, 2009. (Department exhibit 8).
3. On February 12, 2009, the department sent the claimant a notice that her FIP was to be cancelled on March 1, 2009. (Department exhibit 3).

4. On February 19, 2009, the Claimant filed a request for a hearing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-193, 8 USC 601, et seq. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the FIP program pursuant to MCL 400.10, et seq., and MAC R 400.3101-3131. The FIP program replaced the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program effective October 1, 1996. Department policies are found in the Program Administrative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

In the instant case, the Claimant's spouse failed to attend JET appointments and the claimant failed to attend a triage appointment to explain her spouse's absences.

NONCOMPLIANCE WITH EMPLOYMENT AND/OR SELF-SUFFICIENCY-RELATED ACTIVITIES

As a condition of eligibility, all WEIs and non-WEIs must work or engage in employment and/or self-sufficiency-related activities. **Noncompliance** of applicants, recipients, or member adds means doing **any** of the following **without** good cause:

Failing or refusing to:

Appear and participate with the Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Program or other employment service provider.

Complete a Family Automated Screening Tool (FAST), as assigned as the first step in the FSSP process.

Develop a Family Self-Sufficiency Plan (FSSP) or a Personal Responsibility Plan and Family Contract (PRPFC).

Comply with activities assigned to on the Family Self Sufficiency Plan (FSSP) or PRPFC.

Appear for a scheduled appointment or meeting.

Participate in employment and/or self-sufficiency-related activities.

Accept a job referral.

Complete a job application.

Appear for a job interview (see the exception below).

Stating orally or in writing a definite intent not to comply with program requirements. (PEM 233A, p. 1-2).

In the instant case, the claimant's spouse, a FIP group member, did not report to JET as required and the claimant was a no call no show for a triage appointment.

At the hearing the claimant stated that she had good cause because her husband had left the home in [REDACTED]. She stated that she attempted to call the department to reschedule the triage but could not get through because the phones were out of order at the department.

The department testified that there were no problems with the phones. This ALJ finds that the Claimant's reasons for her husband's absence from JET may be good cause but have not been verified and the claimant failed to notify the department in the change in her group. Therefore, the Department was correct in moving to close the Claimant's FIP due to noncompliance.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, AFFIRMS the Department's action in the instant case.

/s/ _____
Michael J. Bennane
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 05/12/09

Date Mailed: 05/13/09

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.

MJB/jlg

cc:

