

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.: 2009-15723

Issue No.: 1038

Case No.:

Load No.:

Hearing Date:

April 2, 2009

Wayne County DHS (58)

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 2, 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 was required to participate in work activities. The claimant had been previously deferred for medical reasons. The group size is two (2).
2. On November 12, 2009, the department sent the claimant a verification checklist and an appointment with Jobs Education and Training (JET) for November 26, 2009.

(Department exhibits 1-2).

3. On December 15, 2009, the department gave the claimant another verification checklist, including a medical needs form, authorization to release protected health information, and a verification of application for SSI/RSDI. (Department exhibits 5-8).
4. On January 9, 2009, the department sent the claimant another verification checklist with a JET referral for January 21, 2009.
5. On January 21, 2009, the department placed the claimant's FIP into negative action.
6. On February 3 2009, the department closed the claimant's FIP.
7. On February 26, 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 failed to attend numerous JET appointments and failed to complete verifications as required. This included a final opportunity to attend JET. The claimant neither attended nor called as to the reason for her lack of attendance. At the hearing the Claimant offered no valid excuse for not notifying the department that she could not attend JET on January 21, 2009.

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 did not report to JET as required. The department did provide the claimant with medical needs forms to enable her to obtain another deferral from JET but these forms were not returned completed.

This ALJ gave the claimant ten (10) days to provide documentation of properly completed verifications for a medical deferment and it was not forthcoming. This ALJ finds that the Claimant's reasons for her absence from JET do not constitute good cause. Therefore, the Department was correct in closing 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: 04/30/09

Date Mailed: 05/01/09

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

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