

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: 2009-20791
Issue No: 2006
Case No: [REDACTED]
Load No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date:
July 14, 2009
Gladwin County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Marlene B. Magyar

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 July 14, 2009. Claimant personally appeared with assistance from [REDACTED]

ISSUE

Did the department properly close claimant's Medicaid (MA) case for failure to return requested verifications at review?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

- (1) Claimant is a disabled, 50-year-old male with an ongoing MA case in [REDACTED]

(2) Claimant's case was scheduled for a mandatory annual review in March, 2009 to determine if he met all the requirements necessary to continue receiving assistance.

(3) On February 19, 2009, the local office mailed a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503) to claimant's address-of-record requesting verification of his current assets and income, which were due back no later than March 2, 2009 (Department Exhibit #1).

(4) That date came and went but the local office did not receive anything from claimant, nor did he call the department to request an extension deadline as described on the Verification Checklist (DHS-3503), which states:

Call me right away if you cannot come to the interview or if you have any questions or problems getting the proofs. I will help you get the proofs if you ask for help. If the information must be provided on a DHS form, the form is enclosed.

You must get the proofs to me or call me by the due date below. **If you do not, your benefits may be denied or cancelled** (Department Exhibit #1).

(5) On March 3, 2009, the local office mailed claimant written notice advising him his MA case would be closed due to his failure to return verifications necessary to determine his eligibility for MA continuation (Department Exhibit #2).

(6) Claimant's case did, in fact, close for this reason; however, his benefits began again on June 1, 2009 because he subsequently complied with the department's procedural verification rules with help from his relatives.

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).

The applicable departmental policy states:

Verification is usually required at application/redetermination **and** for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level. PAM, Item 130, p. 1.

Obtaining Verification

All Programs

Tell the client what verification is required, how to obtain it, and the due date (see “**Timeliness Standards**” in this item). Use the DHS-3503, Verification Checklist, or for MA redeterminations, the DHS-1175, MA Determination Notice, to request verification. PAM, Item 130, p. 2.

At application and redetermination:

- . Thoroughly review all eligibility factors in the case.

Applications and redeterminations must be completed within the standards of promptness. See PAM 115, 210. PAM, Item 105, p. 11.

CLIENT OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibility to Cooperate

All Programs

Clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility. This includes completion of the necessary forms. PAM, Item 105, p. 5.

All Programs

Clients must completely and truthfully answer all questions on forms and in interviews. PAM, Item 105, p. 5.

Refusal to Cooperate Penalties

All Programs

Clients who are able but refuse to provide necessary information or take a required action are subject to penalties. PAM, Item 105, p. 5.

Send a negative action notice when:

- . the client indicates refusal to provide a verification, **or**
- . the time period given has elapsed and the client has not made a reasonable effort to provide it. PAM, Item 130, p. 4.

MA Only

Send a negative action notice when:

- . the client indicates refusal to provide a verification, **or**
- . the time period given has elapsed. PAM, Item 130, p. 4.

The material facts of record in this case are clear/undisputed. Claimant did not provide all the verifications the department needed to keep his case open by the end of his redetermination month. As such, the department had no alternative but to close claimant's MA case.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides the department properly closed claimant's MA case for failure to return requested verifications at review.

Accordingly, the department's action is AFFIRMED.

/s/ _____
Marlene B. Magyar
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: July 15, 2009

Date Mailed: July 16, 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.

MBM/db

cc:

