

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.: 2009-21477  
Issue No.: 3002  
Case No.:   
Load No.:   
Hearing Date:  
August 17, 2009  
Wayne County DHS (49)

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 August 17, 2009. The Claimant personally appeared and testified.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly calculate the Claimant's Food Assistance (FAP)?

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 is a FAP recipient.
2. On May 7, 2009, the department used new RDI benefit income information about the claimant to re-budget her FAP.
3. Claimant supplied the department with new shelter information. The department failed to include new shelter information, including utility costs in its most recent FAP budget.

4. On April 27, 2009, the Claimant filed a request for a hearing.

### 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 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).

The Claimant does question the accuracy of the FAP budget because her rent and expenses have changed. The claimant's daughter testified that she informed the department of the move and provided a completed shelter verification form.

The department was unable to respond to this assertion and testified that it would investigate the completed shelter verification form.

This ALJ finds that the claimant did inform the department of her move change in her shelter expenses.

### **SHELTER EXPENSES**

Allow a shelter expense when the FAP group has a shelter expense or contributes to the shelter expense. Do **not** prorate the shelter expense even if the expense is shared. Shelter expenses are allowed when billed. The expenses do **not** have to be paid to be allowed...

### **Heat Separate from Housing Costs**

A FAP group which has a heat expense or contributes to the heat expense separate from rent, mortgage or condominium /maintenance payments, must use the Heat and Utility Standard. This standard covers all heat and utility costs, except **actual utility**

**expenses, i.e. installation fees** etc. (See [Actual Utilities](#) in this item.) Do **not** prorate the Heat and Utility Standard even if the heat expense is shared. (PEM 554, pp. 9-11)

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, REVERSES AND ORDERS the Department to accept the new documentation about the Claimant's shelter expenses, including allowable utilities and refigure the Claimant's FAP budget and replace lost benefits, if applicable, back to July 1, 2009.



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

Date Signed: 09/29/09

Date Mailed: 09/29/09

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 60 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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