

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: 2009-23774  
Issue No: 3019  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Load No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date:  
July 1, 2009  
Wayne County DHS, Dist 15

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jeanne M. VanderHeide

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the Claimant's request for hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was conducted from Detroit, Michigan on July 1, 2009. The Claimant was present and testified. Karen Rowland, JET Worker, appeared on behalf of the Department. Sheila Taylor, ES worker sat in on the hearing.

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly closed Claimant's FAP case based upon failure to return verification for recertification?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. Claimant was a FAP recipient.
2. The Department closed Claimant's FAP case at the end of the certification period 2/18/09 for failure to return verifications by due date of 2/23/09 despite Claimant turning in or discussing all necessary verifications with her caseworker.

3. Acknowledging the discrepancy concerning the date of closure at the hearing, the Department agreed to reopen Claimant's FAP as of the date of closure and supplement the Claimant for any lost benefits she was otherwise entitled to receive.
4. As a result of this agreement, Claimant indicated that she no longer wished to proceed with 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).

Under Program Administrative Manual Item 600, clients have the right to contest any agency decision affecting eligibility or benefit levels whenever they believe the decision is illegal. The agency provides an Administrative Hearing to review the decision and determine if it is appropriate. Agency policy includes procedures to meet the minimal requirements for a fair hearing. Efforts to clarify and resolve the client's concerns start when the agency receives a hearing request and continues through the day of the hearing.

In the present case the department has agreed to reopen Claimant's FAP case as of the date of closure and supplement the Claimant for any FAP benefits that she was entitled to receive from the date of closure forward. As a result of this agreement, Claimant indicated she no longer wished to proceed with the hearing. Since the Claimant and the Department have come to

an agreement, it is unnecessary for this Administrative Law Judge to make a decision regarding the facts and issues in this case.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that the Department and Claimant have come to a settlement regarding claimant's request for a hearing.

Accordingly it is ORDERED:

1. The Department's shall reopen Claimant's case from the date of closure.
2. The Department shall delete any negative action associated with the 2/18/09 FAP closure and supplement the Claimant for any lost benefits she was otherwise entitled to receive.

/s/  
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Jeanne M. VanderHeide  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Ismael Ahmed, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 07/06/09

Date Mailed: 07/08/09

**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.

JV/dj

cc:

[REDACTED]