

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.: 2009-30179
Issue No.: 1038
Case No.:
Load No.:
Hearing Date:
August 19, 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 19, 2009. The Claimant personally appeared and testified.

ISSUE

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

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 applied for FIP on March 31, 2009.
2. On May 8, 2009, the Department sent the Claimant a Jobs Education and Training (JET) appointment notice for May 11, 2009.
3. On May 14, 2009, the department denied the claimant's FIP application.

4. On July 10, 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 department sent a notice of a referral to JET three days before the scheduled JET appointment. One of the three days was May 10, 2009, a Sunday.

The claimant testified that she was unable to procure child care for her children on such short notice.

GOOD CAUSE FOR NONCOMPLIANCE

Good cause is a valid reason for noncompliance with employment and/ or self-sufficiency-related activities that are based on factors that are beyond the control of the noncompliant person. A claim of good cause must be verified and documented for member adds and recipients. Document the good cause determination on the DHS-71, Good Cause Determination and the FSSP under the Participation and Compliance tab. (PEM 233A, p4).

Here, the department sent out notice of the JET appointment just three (3) days before the appointment was to take place. Added to the shortness of the notice is the fact that it was sent on a Friday, May 8, 2009, for a scheduled appointment on the following Monday, May 11, 2009.

I find it totally unreasonable to expect anyone to perform on such short notice and the tardiness of the notice is good cause for nonparticipation.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, REVERSES AND ORDERS the Department to reregister the claimant's FIP application and replace any lost benefits if applicable.



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

Date Signed: 11/05/09

Date Mailed: 11/05/09

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:

