

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.: 2009-30667
Issue No.: 3008
Case No.:
Load No.:
Hearing Date:
August 24, 2009
Wayne County DHS (43)

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 24, 2009. The Claimant personally appeared and testified.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close 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 applied was a FAP recipient.
2. The claimant contacted the change center to report changes in her children's employment.
3. On May 11, 15, and June 3, 2009, the department sent the claimant employment verification forms.

4. The claimant made multiple attempts to contact the department seeking assistance.
5. On July 2, 2009, the department closed the claimant's FAP.
6. On July 20, 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).

In the instant case, the Department requested employment information involving the changes she reported to the "change center."

At the hearing the claimant testified to having attempted to contact the department numerous times, seeking assistance, to no avail. The claimant notified the "change center" of changes and attempted to contact the change center for assistance.

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....

The client must obtain required verification, but you must assist if they need and request help.

If neither the client nor you can obtain verification despite a reasonable effort, use the best available information. If **no** evidence is available, use your best judgment. (PAM 130, p. 2-3).

Here, the requested verifications involved the claimant's children's employment. I find that the department did not offer assistance to the claimant contrary to the policy cited above.

Therefore, the department was in error in closing the claimant's FAP.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, REVERSES AND ORDERS the Department to retroactively reinstate the Claimant's FAP and replace any lost benefits if applicable.



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

Date Signed: 10/28/09

Date Mailed: 10/28/09

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

cc:

