

[REDACTED]

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.: 2009-4455

Issue No.: 1038

Case No.: [REDACTED]

Load No.: [REDACTED]

Hearing Date:

February 18, 2009

Allegan County DHS

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, an in person hearing was held on February 18, 2009. The Claimant personally appeared and testified and was represented by her Authorized Representative (AR) [REDACTED]

ISSUE

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

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 was a FIP recipient and has an AR.
2. On October 13, 2008, the Department sent the Claimant a notice of non compliance and a triage appointment for October 23, 2008, the Department did not send a notice to the Claimant's AR. (Department's exhibit 1).

3. On October 23, 2008, the Department found no good cause, after the triage. (Department exhibit 6).
4. On October 23, 2008, the Claimant signed a first noncompliance letter agreeing to attend JET on October 27, 2008. (Department exhibit 5).
5. On October 23, 2008, the Claimant filed a request for a hearing.
6. On November 4, 2008, the Claimant's FIP was allowed to close.

### 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).

### **AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES**

#### **All Programs**

An **authorized representative** (AR) is a person who applies for assistance on behalf of the client and/or otherwise acts on his behalf (PAM 110, p.7).

In the instant case, the Department sent a notice of noncompliance to the Claimant and scheduled a triage but failed to notify the Claimant's AR of the noncompliance or the triage.

Therefore, the Department effectively, sent no notice.

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 FIP to the date of closure and replace any lost benefits.

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

Date Signed: 03/18/09

Date Mailed: 03/18/09

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:

