

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: 2009-6786

Issue No: 4031

Case No: [REDACTED]

Load No: [REDACTED]

Hearing Date:

March 31, 2009

Kent County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Ivona Rairigh

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9; and MCL 400.37 upon claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on March 31, 2009. Claimant personally appeared and testified along with his mother,

[REDACTED]

ISSUE

Did the department properly deny claimant's August 29, 2008, State Disability Assistance (SDA) application, finding he lacks a legally disabling condition?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. Claimant applied for SDA on August 29, 2008.
2. On October 30, 2008, department's Medical Review Team determined that the claimant was not disabled for SDA eligibility purposes.

3. On November 3, 2008, department sent the claimant an Application Eligibility Notice denying his SDA application.

4. Claimant requested a hearing on November 13, 2008.

5. On January 5, 2009, department's State Hearing Review Team (SHRT) also determined that the claimant was not disabled.

6. Claimant presented additional medical information following the hearing. This information was forwarded to SHRT for additional review.

7. On May 19, 2009, SHRT advised that the claimant has been approved for Social Security disability benefits on May 7, 2009, with a February 17, 2005 disability onset. Claimant had not been put in pay status yet, but that is expected to occur soon.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program which provides financial assistance for disabled persons is established by 2004 PA 344. The Department of Human Services (DHS or department) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MAC R 400.3151-400.3180. Department policies are found in the Program Administrative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

In Michigan, the SSA's determination of disability onset is established for SDA eligibility purposes. In the present case, evidence of the favorable SSA decision established that the claimant met the federal disability standard necessary to qualify for SDA pursuant to PEM 261.

The SSA determined claimant has been disabled since February, 2005. Consequently, the department must reverse its SDA denial, and process claimant's disputed application in accordance with department policy.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the department erred in determining claimant is not disabled.

Accordingly, department's action is REVERSED. Department shall:

1. Process claimant's disputed SDA application and issue him any benefits he was entitled to but did not receive, based on August 29, 2008, application date, if he is otherwise eligible to receive them (i.e. meets all of the other required eligibility criteria including completion of a repayment agreement for SDA benefits from any SSA benefits he is approved for the same period of time).
2. Consider any retroactive SSA benefits claimant may have received for the same period of time of the SDA application, to avoid duplicative issuance of benefits, as the claimant would not be eligible for SDA benefits during the period of time covered by SSA benefits.
3. Notify the claimant of this determination in writing.

SO ORDERED.

/s/ _____
Ivona Rairigh
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: May 27, 2009

Date Mailed: May 29, 2009

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.

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The Claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the mailing 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.

IR [REDACTED]

cc:

[REDACTED]