

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: 2009-701
Issue No: 4031
Case No: [REDACTED]
Load No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date:
February 12, 2009
Macomb County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: William A. Sundquist

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 February 12, 2009.

ISSUE

Was disability medically established?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

(1) On April 11, 2008, the claimant applied for SDA and was denied on August 26, 2008 per PEM 261.

(2) Claimant's vocational factors are: age 54, 11th grade education, and past unskilled work as a tack welder requiring no lifting/carrying of parts; unskilled mechanic requiring the lifting of batteries weighing up to 30 pounds.

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(3) Claimant's medical diagnosis is: epileptic seizure disorder.

(4) Claimant's disabling symptoms/complaints are: seizures as many as three in one day; each lasting 15 minutes; medications help a little.

(5) Claimant has not performed substantial gainful work since 1999.

[PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT ONLY]

(6) Medical exam on [REDACTED] states the claimant's condition is stable; and that he has no physical limitations (Medical Packet, page 4).

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).

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department of Human Services (DHS or department) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105. Department policies are found in the Program Administrative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

Facts above are undisputed.

DISABILITY

A person is disabled for SDA purposes if he:

- . receives other specified disability-related benefits or services, or

- . resides in a qualified Special Living Arrangement facility, or
- . is certified as unable to work due to mental or physical disability for at least 90 days from the onset of the disability.
- . is diagnosed as having Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

If the client's circumstances change so that the basis of his/her disability is no longer valid, determine if he/she meets any of the other disability criteria. Do NOT simply initiate case closure. PEM, Item 261, p. 1.

Non-severe impairment(s). An impairment or combination of impairments is not severe if it does not significantly limit your physical or mental ability to do basic work activities. 20 CFR 416.921(a).

Basic work activities. When we talk about basic work activities, we mean the abilities and aptitudes necessary to do most jobs. Examples of these include --

- (1) Physical functions such as walking, standing, sitting, lifting, pushing, pulling, reaching, carrying, or handling;
- (2) Capacities for seeing, hearing, and speaking;
- (3) Understanding, carrying out, and remembering simple instructions;
- (4) Use of judgment;
- (5) Responding appropriately to supervision, co-workers and usual work situations; and
- (6) Dealing with changes in a routine work setting. 20 CFR 416.921(b).

Sedentary work. Sedentary work involves lifting no more than 10 pounds at a time and occasionally lifting or carrying articles like docket files, ledgers, and small tools. Although a sedentary job is defined as one which involves sitting, a certain amount of walking and standing is often necessary in carrying out job duties. Jobs are sedentary if walking and standing are required occasionally and other sedentary criteria are met. 20 CFR 416.967(a).

Claimant has the burden of proof to establish by a preponderance of the medical evidence in the record that his physical impairment meets the department's definition of disability for SDA purposes. PEM 261.

The question is whether the claimant, on date of application, had a severe physical impairment as defined above, which had lasted or was expected to last for a continuous period of at least 90 days. PEM 261.

The objective medical evidence stated above supports the negative case actions.

Let's assume, on date of application, a severe physical impairment had been medically established. Then, the remaining question is whether it had lasted or was expected to last for a continuous period of at least 90 days. The objective medical evidence does not establish this duration requirement. Before you can be determined disabled, the severity/duration requirement must be established by the objective medical evidence. PEM 261.

Therefore, this ALJ is not persuaded that disability has been established by a preponderance of the medical evidence.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that disability was not medically established.

Accordingly, SDA denial is UPHELD.

/S/ _____
William A. Sundquist
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: March 23, 2009

Date Mailed: March 23, 2009

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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.

WAS/tg

cc: H. Podobnikar
Macomb County DHS (Dist. #12)
M. Spitzley
J. Richardson
B. Dixon
W. A. Sundquist
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