

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 20091373
Issue No: 3020, 4060
Case No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: July 7, 2011
Ingham County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Corey A. Arendt

HEARING DECISION

This matter is assigned to me pursuant to 7 CFR 273.18; 45 CFR 233.20(a)(13); MCL 400.9; MCL 400.37; MCL 400.43(a); MAC R 400.941 and MCL 24.201, *et seq.*, upon a hearing request by the Department of Human Services (Department) to establish an over issuance of benefits to Respondent. After due notice was mailed to Respondent, a hearing was held on July 7, 2011, at which Respondent did not appear. This matter having been initiated by the Department and due notice having been provided to Respondent, the hearing was held in accordance with Bridges Administrative Manual, Item 725.

ISSUE

Whether Respondent received an over issuance (OI) of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits that the Department is entitled to recoup?

FINDINGS OF FACT

I, based upon the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, find as material fact:

1. Respondent was an active FAP recipient from March 2005 through March 2006.
2. From March 2005 through March 2006, the Respondent received [REDACTED] in FAP OI due to Department error.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The FAP 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 administers the FAP program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MAC R 400.3001-3015. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

Departmental policy, states that when the client group receives more benefits than the group is entitled to receive, the Department must attempt to recoup the OI. Repayment of an OI is the responsibility of anyone who was an eligible, disqualified, or other adult in the program group at the time the OI occurred. Bridges will collect from all adults who were a member of the case. OIs on active programs are repaid by lump sum cash payments, monthly cash payments (when court ordered), and administrative recoupment (benefit reduction). OI balances on inactive cases must be repaid by lump sum or monthly cash payments unless collection is suspended. BAM 725.

In this case, the Department admitted they did not follow their own policies in budgeting Respondent's income. Because the Department failed to budget Respondent's income, Respondent received an OI of benefits. Regardless of fault, the Department must attempt to recoup the OI.

I find the evidence presented by the Department shows the Respondent received more benefits than she was entitled to receive. Therefore, Respondent is responsible for repayment of the OI.

DECISION AND ORDER

I, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decide the Respondent received an OI of FAP benefits for the time period of March 2005 through March 2006 that the Department is entitled to recoup.

The Department is therefore entitled to recoup a FAP OI of [REDACTED] from the Respondent.

The Department shall initiate collection procedures in accordance with Department policy.

