

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: 2009-25158
Issue No: 3008
Case No: ██████████
Load No: ██████████
Hearing Date:
August 27, 2009
Genesee County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Steven M. Brown

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 conducted from ██████████ on August 27, 2009.

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly terminated Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) and Medical Assistance (MA) benefits based upon her failure to provide requested verification(s)?

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 was a FAP recipient.
- (2) On April 16, 2009, the Department was informed by Claimant's daughter that she lived with Claimant. (Exhibit 3)
- (3) On May 2, 2009, the Department mailed Claimant a Verification Checklist, DHS-3503, with a due date of May 12, 2009. The Department requested that Claimant provide personal and medical records, income records, asset records and household expense records. It also informed Claimant that she and her daughter needed to attend an interview on May 12, 2009. Lastly, it stated – "Group composition is questionable. You will need to keep this appointment and provide all verifications requested." (Exhibit 1)
- (4) On or about May 12, 2009, Claimant contacted the Department and left a voicemail that she could not attend the interview because she did not have all the requested verification(s). She filed for a hearing, but did not have any further contact with and did not return any documentation to the Department.
- (5) On May 14, 2009, the Department mailed Claimant a Notice of Case Action informing her that her FAP and MA benefits were cancelled based upon her failure to provide requested verification(s). (Exhibit 2)
- (6) On May 27, 2009 and July 2, 2009, the Department received Claimant's hearing request(s) protesting the termination of her FAP and MA benefits. (Exhibits 4-5)

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

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).

Clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility. This includes the completion of necessary forms. BAM 105, p. 5 Verification means documentation or other evidence to establish the accuracy of the client's verbal or written statements. BAM 130, p.1 Verification is usually required at application/redetermination and for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level when it is required by policy, required as local office option or information regarding an eligibility factor is unclear, inconsistent, incomplete or contradictory. BAM 130, p.1 The Department uses documents, collateral contacts or home calls to verify information. BAM 130, p.1 A collateral contact is a direct contact with a person, organization or agency to verify information from the client. BAM 130, p. 2 When documentation is not available, or clarification is needed, collateral contact may be necessary. BAM 130, p. 2

Clients are allowed 10 calendar days (or other time limit specified in policy) to provide the verifications requested by the Department. BAM 130, p. 4 If the client

cannot provide the verification despite a reasonable effort, the time limit should be extended no more than once. BAM 130, p. 4 A negative action notice should be sent when the client indicates a refusal to provide the verification or the time period provided has lapsed and the client has not made a reasonable effort to provide it. BAM 130, p.4

Clients are allowed a reasonable opportunity to resolve any discrepancy between statements and information obtained through another source. BAM 130, p. 6 Disagreements and misunderstandings should be resolved at the lowest possible level to avoid unnecessary hearings. BAM 600, p. 11

In the instant case, there is no dispute that Claimant never returned the requested verifications to the Department nor did she attend an interview. While she left a message with the Department near her scheduled interview date, I do not find that she made a reasonable effort to attend the interview and/or provide the requested verifications.

With the above said, I find that the Department established that it acted in accordance with policy in terminating Claimant's FAP and MA benefits based on her failure to provide requested verifications.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that the Department acted in accordance with policy in terminating Claimant's FAP and MA benefits based on her failure to provide requested verifications.

Accordingly, the Department's FAP and MA eligibility determination is
AFFIRMED, it is SO ORDERED.

/S/

Steven M. Brown
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: August 31, 2009

Date Mailed: September 2, 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 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.

SMB/db

cc:

