

STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF:

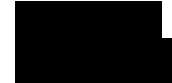


Claimant

Reg. No: 2009-26040

Issue No: 3008

Case No:



Load No:

Hearing Date:

July 8, 2009

Genesee County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Gary F. Heisler

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 hearing was held on July 8, 2009. Claimant appeared and testified.

ISSUE

Did the Department of Human Services properly close Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) case due to failure to verify necessary information?

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 an ongoing recipient of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.
- (2) On May 3, 2009, Claimant's husband called the local office and reported he had begun working.
- (3) On May 4, 2009, a Verification of Employment (DHS Form 38) was sent out to Claimant.

(4) On May 22, 2009, a Verification Checklist (DHS Form 3503) was sent out to Claimant. The checklist requested “missing pay period amounts – unearned income.”

(5) On June 1, 2009, Claimant’s Food Assistance Program (FAP) case was automatically closed by computer action.

(6) On June 3, 2009, Claimant’s husband’s employer signed the Verification of Employment (DHS Form 38) and faxed it to the local office.

(7) On June 5, 2009, Claimant submitted a request for hearing.

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. Department policies are found in the Program Administrative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

In this case, the increase of income was reported quickly. When the Verification of Employment (DHS Form 38) was received Claimant’s husband gave it to his employer to fill out. The delay in returning the form was due to the employer. Department policy provides the following guidance for case workers. The Department's policies are available on the internet through the Department's website.

PAM 105 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

DEPARTMENT POLICY All Programs

Clients have rights and responsibilities as specified in this item.

The local office must do **all** of the following:

- Determine eligibility.
- Calculate the level of benefits.
- Protect client rights.

CLIENT OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibility to Cooperate All Programs

Clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility. This includes completion of necessary forms. See [Refusal to Cooperate Penalties](#) in this section.

Clients must completely and truthfully answer all questions on forms and in interviews.

The client might be unable to answer a question about himself or another person whose circumstances must be known. Allow the client at least 10 days (or other timeframe specified in policy) to obtain the needed information.

Clients must also cooperate with local and central office staff during quality control (QC) reviews.

FAP Only

Do **not** deny eligibility due to failure to cooperate with a verification request by a person **outside** the group. In applying this policy, a person is considered a group member if residing with the group and is disqualified.

When Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) case was automatically closed it was not known that the lack of verification was due to person outside the benefit group.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides the Department of Human Services DID NOT properly close Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) case due to failure to verify necessary information.

It is ORDERED that the actions of the Department of Human Services, in this matter, are REVERSED.

It is further ORDERED that Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) case be reinstated, a new financial eligibility budget be run using the increased income, and any benefits Claimant is found eligible for be supplemented.

/s/

Gary F. Heisler
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: July 10, 2009

Date Mailed: July 13, 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.

GFH 

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