

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: 2009-26763
Issue No: 2009-4031
Case No: [REDACTED]
Load No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date:
August 13, 2009
Wayne County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jonathan W. Owens

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, an in person hearing was held on August 13, 2009. The Claimant did not appear and testified.

The Hearing was held at the request of the Claimant's representative L&S Associates (L&S) Archie Hayman.

ISSUE

Whether the Department of Human Services (Department) properly determined that the Claimant is not "disabled" for purposes of the Medical Assistance (MA) and State Disability Assistance (SDA) program?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. On November 7, 2008 the Claimant applied for MA-P and SDA.

2. On February 4, 2009 the Department denied the Claimant's application.
3. On May 14, 2009 the Claimant's representative L&S filed a request for hearing regarding the Department's denial of benefits.
4. The Claimant is 50 years old.
5. The Claimant has a limited education.
6. The Claimant's work history according to FIA 49-F completed on October 21, 2008 was left blank with only a box checked saying not employed.
7. The Claimant suffers from degenerative disc disease, congestive heart failure, hypertension and obesity.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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 (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) 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).

In order to receive MA benefits based upon disability or blindness, claimant must be disabled or blind as defined in Title XVI of the Social Security Act (20 R 416.901). The Department, being authorized to make such disability determinations, utilizes the SSI definition of disability when making medical decisions on MA applications. MA-P (disability), also is known as Medicaid, which is a program designated to help public assistance claimants pay their medical expenses.

The law defines disability as the inability to do substantial gainful activity

(SGA) by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months. (20 CFR 416.905).

Because disability must be determined on the basis of medical evidence, Federal regulations have delineated a set order entailing a step sequential process for evaluating physical or mental impairments. When claimant is found either disabled or not disabled at any point in the process, the claimant is not considered further.

Addressing the following steps:

The first sequential step to be consider is whether the Claimant can perform Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) defined in 20 CFR 416.920(b). In this case, the Claimant did not appear for the hearing. Department exhibit 18 dated October 21, 2008 the Claimant stated he was not employed or working and fails to list any employment history. No other documentation and/or evidence was submitted to establish the employment status of the Claimant. The Claimant failed to appear for the hearing and therefore could not provide any additional sworn testimony regarding her employment from October 2008 through to the date of the hearing.

It is the finding of the undersigned, based upon the evidence presented that the Claimant is not “disabled” at the first step. The Claimant has not demonstrated his employment status for the time period in question.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Claimant is not “disabled” for purposes of the Medical Assistance and State Disability Assistance programs.

It is ORDERED; the Department's determination in this matter is AFFIRMED

/s/ _____
Jonathan W. Owens
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 8/24/09

Date Mailed: 8/26/09

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.

JWO/at

cc:

[REDACTED]