

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: 2009-29479  
Issue No: 3002  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Load No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date:  
August 11, 2009  
Branch 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 August 11, 2009. Claimant appeared and testified.

ISSUE

Did the Department of Human Services determine the proper amount of Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits?

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 July 11, 2009, Claimant's eligibility was re-determined using the information Claimant provided the Department. Claimant was determined to be eligible for the same amount of benefits he had been receiving. Claimant was sent notice of the determination.

(3) On July 14, 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, Claimant did not have any changes in his income or expenses so the Department's determination was understandably for the same amount of benefits he was already receiving. At the hearing Claimant stated he requested a hearing because he feels the amount of benefits he is eligible for is not enough and he feels the government should be giving him more.

The claimant's grievance centers on dissatisfaction with the department's current policy.

The claimant's request is not within the scope of authority delegated to this Administrative Law Judge pursuant to a written directive signed by the Department of Human Services Director, which states:

Administrative Law Judges have no authority to make decisions on constitutional grounds, overrule statutes, overrule promulgated regulations or overrule or make exceptions to the department policy set out in the program manuals.

Furthermore, administrative adjudication is an exercise of executive power rather than judicial power, and restricts the granting of equitable remedies. *Michigan Mutual Liability Co. v Baker*, 295 Mich 237; 294 NW 168 (1940); *Auto-Owners Ins Co v Elchuk*, 103 Mich App 542, 303 NW2d 35 (1981); *Delke v Scheuren*, 185 Mich App 326, 460 NW2d 324 (1990), and *Turner*

*v Ford Motor Company*, unpublished opinion per curium of the Court of Appeals issued March 20, 2001 (Docket No. 223082).

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides the Department of Human Services determined the proper amount of Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.

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

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

Date Signed: September 8, 2009

Date Mailed: September 10, 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 

cc: 