

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: 2009-36312

Issue No: 4003

Case No: [REDACTED]

Load No: [REDACTED]

Hearing Date:

May 20, 2010

Ingham 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 Lansing, Michigan on May 20, 2010.

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly denied Claimant's State Disability Assistance (SDA) application 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) On June 11, 2009, Claimant applied for SDA benefits. (Hearing Summary)
- (2) On June 18, 2009, the Department sent Claimant a Medical Determination Verification Checklist, DHS-3503-MRT, with a due date of June 29, 2009. (Exhibit 1)

(3) On June 29, 2009, the medical forms were returned blank and no current medical records were provided so the case was denied for failure to return completed forms or updated medical. (Hearing Summary, Exhibit 6)

(4) On July 11, 2009, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action which informed her that her application for the Cash Program was denied because – “you failed to verify or allow the Department to verify necessary information.” (Exhibits 2-5)

(5) On August 10, 2009, the Department received Claimant’s hearing request listing the Program in Dispute as State Disability. (Exhibit A)

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program which provides financial assistance for disabled persons is established by 2004 PA 344. The Department of Human Services (DHS or department) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MAC R 400.3151-400.3180. 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 at least once. BAM 130, p. 4 Verifications are considered timely if received by the date they are due. 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 For MA only, the Department should extend the time limit up to three times and the negative action notice should be sent when the client indicates a refusal to provide the verification or the time period given has elapsed. BAM 130, p. 5

In the instant case, Claimant did not return the requested proofs to the Department in a timely manner. The DHS-3503-MRT informed Claimant that a failure to return the proofs by the due date could result in a denial of benefits. With the above said, I find that the Department established that it acted in accordance with policy in denying Claimant's application for SDA benefits.

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 denying Claimant's application for SDA benefits.

Accordingly, the Department's SDA 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: June 9, 2010

Date Mailed: June 9, 2010

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/vc

cc:

