

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.: 2010-12909
Issue No.: 3008
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Load No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date:
January 28, 2010
Wayne County DHS (35)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Aaron McClintic

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on January 28, 2010. The Claimant appeared and testified. [REDACTED] ES appeared on behalf of the Department.

ISSUE

Was the Department correct in denying Claimant's FAP application?

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 applied for FAP on October 13, 2009.
- (2) A verification checklist was sent to claimant on October 30, 2009 with a November 9, 2009 due date.
- (3) On November 10, 2009 the Department closed Claimant's FAP benefit because Claimant failed to return identity verification.

(4) Claimant requested a hearing on November 30, 2009 contesting the denial of benefits.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Food Assistance Program, 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”), formally known as the Family Independence Agency, administers the FAP program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq* and MAC R 400.3001-3015. Departmental 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 to provide verification. BAM 130, p. 1. The questionable information might be from the client or a third party. Id. The Department can use documents, collateral contacts or home calls to verify information. Id. The client should be allowed 10 calendar days to provide the verification. If the client cannot provide the verification despite a reasonable effort, the time limit to provide should be extended at least once. BAM 130, p.4; BEM 702. If the client refuses to provide the information or has not made a reasonable effort within the specified time period, then policy directs that a negative action be issued. BAM 130, p. 4. Before making an eligibility determination, however, the Department must give the client a reasonable opportunity to resolve any discrepancy between his statements and information from another source. BAM 130, p. 6. The Department is to request verification when information regarding an eligibility factor is unclear, inconsistent, incomplete or contradictory. BAM 130.

In the present case, Claimant testified that she mailed a copy of her driver’s license on November 10, 2009. She further testified that she thought the due date was on November 17,

2009 and that was the date on the notice she received. However, the checklist submitted by the Department at hearing clearly has a November 9, 2009 due date. Claimant presented no documents with a later due date. Since the Department's testimony is supported by documentary evidence this Administrative Law Judge finds it more credible. Therefore the Department was correct to deny Claimant's application for failure to return requested verifications by the deadline.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law decides that the Department was correct in the denial of Claimant's FAP application, and it is ORDERED that the Department's decision is hereby AFFIRMED.



Aaron McClintic
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 3/24/2010

Date Mailed: 3/24/2010

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.

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cc:

