

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: 201015234

Issue No: 3000

Case No: [REDACTED]

Load No: [REDACTED]

Hearing Date:

February 18, 2010

Oakland County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jeanne M. VanderHeide

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 hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was conducted from Detroit, Michigan on February 18, 2010. The Claimant was present and testified. Judy Windrim, FIM, appeared on behalf of the Department.

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly closed Claimant's Food Assistance Program ("FAP") benefits effective 12/31/09?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. Claimant was an active FAP recipient who was up for semi-annual review.
2. The Claimant's FAP case was closed effective 12/31/09 when the semi-annual contact report was not returned by the Claimant.

3. At the hearing, the Department acknowledged that the Department failed to update Claimant's address in the system after Claimant reported an address change during a SER application and that Claimant never received the semi-annual contact report.
4. The Department agreed, after Claimant fills out a DHS 1171, to reopen and process Claimant's FAP benefits retroactive to 1/1/2010.
5. As a result of this agreement, Claimant indicated that she no longer wished to proceed with a 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 (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the FAP program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MAC R 400.3001-3015. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

Under Bridges Administrative Manual Item 600, clients have the right to contest any agency decision affecting eligibility or benefit levels whenever they believe the decision is illegal. The agency provides an Administrative Hearing to review the decision and determine if it is appropriate. Agency policy includes procedures to meet the minimal requirements for a fair hearing. Efforts to clarify and resolve the client's concerns start when the agency receives a hearing request and continues through the day of the hearing.

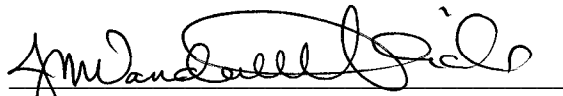
In the present case, the Department has agreed to reopen and reprocess Claimant's FAP case with the DHS 1171 submitted by Claimant. The Department further agreed to process FAP benefits retroactive to 1/1/2010. As a result of this agreement, Claimant indicated she no longer wished to proceed with the hearing. Since the Claimant and the Department have come to an agreement, it is unnecessary for this Administrative Law Judge to make a decision regarding the facts and issues in this case.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that the Department and Claimant have come to a settlement regarding claimant's request for a hearing.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that:

1. The Department shall reopen and reprocess Claimant's FAP recertification as of the date of closure, 12/31/09.
2. The Department shall delete any negative action associated with the closure of Claimant's FAP case, effective 12/31/09.
3. The Department shall supplement the Claimant for any lost benefits she was otherwise entitled to receive retroactive to January 1, 2010.


Jeanne M. VanderHeide
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 03/10/10

Date Mailed: 03/11/10

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.

JV/dj

cc:

