

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: 2010-29356
Issue No: 3008, 2006
Case No: [REDACTED]
Load No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date:
May 12, 2010
Bay County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Kevin Scully

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge by authority of MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37. Claimant's request for a hearing was received on March 31, 2010. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on Wednesday, May 12, 2010.

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly terminated the Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) and Medical Assistance (MA) 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) The Claimant received FAP benefits.
- (2) The Claimant received MA benefits.
- (3) On February 9, 2010, the Department sent the Claimant notice of a redetermination telephone interview to be held on March 5, 2010. Department Exhibit 1.

(4) The Department sent the Claimant a redetermination from on February 9, 2010, with a due date of March 5, 2010. Department Exhibit 2 – 5.

(5) On March 5, 2010, the Department sent the Claimant notice that she had missed her redetermination interview. Department Exhibit 6.

(6) On March 19, 2010, the Department sent the Claimant notice that her FAP and AMP benefits would be terminated on April 1, 2010. Department Exhibit 7 – 9.

(7) The Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing on March 31, 2010, protesting the termination of her FAP and AMP benefits.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Food Assistance Program (FAP) (formerly known as the Food Stamp 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 Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Reference Table Manual (RFT), and the Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

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 (DHS or Department) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, et seq., and MCL 400.105. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Reference Table Manual (RFT), and the Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

The Adult Medical Program (AMP) is established by Title XXI of the Social Security Act; (1115)(a)(1) of the Social Security Act, and is administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS or department) pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.* Department policies are contained in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

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 a 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 ten calendar days to provide the verifications requested by the Department. BAM 130, p. 4. The Department should send a negative action notice 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. The Department should extend the time limit no more than once if the client cannot provide the verification despite a reasonable effort. BAM 130, p. 4.

The Department scheduled the Claimant for a redetermination interview for March 5, 2010, and requested that she complete a redetermination form prior to the interview. When the Claimant failed to attend the interview or return the redetermination form, the Department terminated her FAP and AMP benefits. No evidence or testimony was presented at the hearing showing that the Claimant attempted to reschedule her interview or obtain an extension to return her redetermination form.

The proper mailing and addressing of a letter creates a presumption of receipt. That presumption may be rebutted by evidence. *Stacey v Sankovich*, 19 Mich App 638 (1969); *Good v Detroit Automobile Inter-Insurance Exchange*, 67 Mich App 270 (1976).

This Administrative Law Judge finds that the Department acted in accordance with policy in determining the Claimant's FAP and AMP eligibility for her failure to cooperate in the redetermination process.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department acted in accordance with policy in terminating the Claimant's FAP and AMP benefits for failure to cooperate with the redetermination process.

The Department's FAP and AMP eligibility determinations are AFFIRMED, it is SO ORDERED.

/s/ _____
Kevin Scully
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: May 20, 2010

Date Mailed: May 21, 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.

KS/vc

cc:

