

STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 201036460
Issue No.: 1005; 2006; 3008
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Load No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: July 28, 2010
Wayne County DHS

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 July 28, 2010. The Claimant appeared and testified. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], FIS appeared on behalf of the Department.

ISSUE

Was the Department correct in closing Claimant's FIP, FAP, CDC, and MA benefits for failing to provide verifications of income?

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 FIP, FAP, CDC and MA benefits.
- (2) A verification checklist was sent to Claimant on April 8, 2010 with an April 19, 2010 due date requesting pay stubs and verification of employment.
- (3) Claimant requested, and was granted, an extension for this request.
- (4) Claimant submitted verification of employment on April 21, 2010.
- (5) Claimant submitted pay stubs.
- (6) On April 23, 2010 Claimant's FIP, FAP, CDC and MA closed for failure to verify income.
- (7) Claimant requested a hearing on April 30, 2010 contesting the closure of FAP, FIP, CDC and MA benefits.
- (8) Claimant has since reapplied and her benefits are active.

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 Bridges Administrative Manual ("BAM"), the Bridges Eligibility Manual ("BEM"), and the Program Reference Manual ("PRM").

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 (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) 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) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

The Child Development and Care program is established by Titles IVA, IVE and XX of the Social Security Act, the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990, and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. The program is implemented by Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 98 and 99. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) provides services to adults and children pursuant to MCL 400.14(1) and MAC R 400.5001-5015. Department policies are contained in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 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.

In the present case, a verification checklist was sent to Claimant on April 8, 2010 with an April 19, 2010 due date. Claimant requested, and was granted, an extension.

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Claimant submitted the verification of employment on April 21, 2010. On April 23, 2010 Claimant's FAP, FIP, MA, and CDC benefits were closed for failure to return verifications. The Department asserts that Claimant failed to provide check stubs as requested in the verification checklist. Claimant credibly testified that she submitted check stubs. This Administrative Law Judge cannot find that Claimant was not cooperative. Therefore closure of FAP, FIP, MA, and CDC benefits was unwarranted and improper.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law decides that the Department was incorrect in the closure of Claimant's FAP, FIP, MA, and CDC benefits, and it is ORDERED that the Department's decision is hereby REVERSED. Claimant's FAP, FIP, MA, and CDC shall be reinstated as of the date of closure. Any missed benefits shall be paid to Claimant in the form of a supplement.

/s/



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

Date Signed: August 4, 2010

Date Mailed: August 4, 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 90 days of the filing of the original request.

The Claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the mailing 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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