

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.: 2010-36897
Issue No.: 2026
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Load No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: December 9, 2010
Wayne County DHS (18)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Colleen M. Mamelka

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 hearing was held in Taylor, Michigan on Thursday, December 9, 2010. The Claimant did not appear however his authorized representative, [REDACTED], appeared, along with [REDACTED], on his behalf. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] appeared on behalf of the Department.

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly calculated the Claimant's Medical Assistance ("MA") deductible?

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 is a MA recipient.
2. The Claimant began receiving a \$923.00 monthly annuity payment when he turned 18 years of age.
3. The Department included the Claimant's unearned income in the MA budget.
4. As a result of the income, the Claimant is required to meet a \$548.00 monthly deductible.

5. On February 26, 2010, the Department received the Claimant's Representative's written request for hearing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by the 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 Bridges Reference Manual ("BRM").

The goal of the Medicaid program is to ensure that essential health care services are made available to those who otherwise could not afford them. BEM 105 Medicaid is also known as Medical Assistance ("MA"). *Id.* The Medicaid program is comprised of several categories; one category is for FIP recipients while another is for SSI recipients. *Id.* MA income eligibility exists for the calendar month tested when there is no excess income or allowable medical expenses that equal or exceed the excess income. BEM 545 The fiscal group's monthly excess income is called a deductible amount. *Id.* Deductible is a process which allows a client with excess income to become eligible for Group 2 MA if sufficient allowable medical expenses are incurred. *Id.* Each calendar month is a separate deductible period. *Id.* The group must report expenses by the last day of the third month following the month it seeks MA coverage for. *Id.*

In this case, the Claimant's MA case required that a \$548.00 deductible be met. The Claimant/Representative believed that the shelter obligation, taxes, etc. should be included in the MA budget. During the hearing, it was explained that those monthly expenses are not considered in the MA budget. The MA monthly protected income level for shelter area IV (Wayne County) is \$375.00. RFT 200 and 240 The deductible amount is derived by taking the gross income of \$923.00/month and subtracting the protected income level of \$375.00. Ultimately, the Department established it acted in accordance with Department policy when it determined the Claimant's MA deductible. Accordingly, the Department's determination is AFFIRMED.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law finds the Department acted in accordance with department policy when it determined the Claimant's MA deductible amount.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED:

2010-36897/CMM

The Department's determination is AFFIRMED.

Colleen M. Mamelka

Colleen M. Mamelka
Administrative Law Judge
For Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 12/14/2010

Date Mailed: 12/14/2010

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.

CMM/jlg

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