

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 2010-46849  
Issue No.: 1005  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Load No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: January 3, 2011  
Macomb County DHS (20)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Michael J. Bennane

**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 3, 2011. The claimant appeared and testified.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly close the Claimant's family Independence Program (FIP)?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. The claimant was a FIP recipient.
2. On February 11, 2010, the department sent a notice to the claimant that she was in noncompliance with the child support program. (Department exhibit 1).
3. On March 31, 2010 the department closed the claimant's FIP for noncompliance with child support.
4. On May 20, 2010, the claimant filed a request for a hearing.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-193, 8 USC 601, *et seq.* The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family

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Independence Agency) administers the FIP program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MAC R400.3101-3131. The FIP program replaced the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program effective October 1, 1996. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

In the instant case, the department closed the claimant's FIP because of noncompliance with child support.

At the hearing the claimant testified that she had supplied the court with all of the information she had on her child's father.

The office of child support was not in attendance.

**FIP, CDC Income Eligible, MA and FAP**

Clients must comply with all requests for action or information needed to establish paternity and/or obtain child support on behalf of children for whom they receive assistance, unless a claim of good cause for not cooperating has been granted or is pending. (BEM 255, p. 1)

Here, the department was not able to present evidence that the claimant had not provided the Office of Child Support (OCS) with all of the information available to her.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, **REVERSES AND ORDERS** the Department to reopen the claimant's FIP retroactively to March, 31, 2010, the date of closure.



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Michael J. Bennane  
Administrative Law Judge  
For Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 1/26/2011

Date Mailed: 1/26/2011

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**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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cc:

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