

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 20128582
Issue No.: 2018; 3019
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: December 1, 2011
County: Macomb (36)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Alice C. Elkin

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 following Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on December 1, 2011, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant and [REDACTED], Claimant's friend and translator. Participants on behalf of Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Due to a failure to comply with the verification requirements, did the Department properly deny Claimant's application close Claimant's case reduce Claimant's benefits for:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Independence Program (FIP)? | <input type="checkbox"/> State Disability Assistance (SDA)? |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Assistance Program (FAP)? | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Development and Care (CDC)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Assistance (MA)? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adult Medical Program (AMP)? |

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, including testimony of witnesses, finds as material fact:

1. Claimant applied for was receiving: FIP FAP MA SDA CDC AMP.
2. Claimant was was not provided with a Redetermination form (DHS-1010).

3. Claimant was required to submit the completed Re determination form and provide requested proofs by October 13, 2011 and participate in a telephone interview on October 13, 2011.
4. On November 1, 2011, the Department
 - denied Claimant's application
 - closed Claimant's case
 - reduced Claimant's benefitsfor failure to submit verification in a timely manner.
5. On October 20, 2011, the Department sent notice of the
 - denial of Claimant's application.
 - closure of Claimant's case.
 - reduction of Claimant's benefits.
6. On October 31, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting the
 - denial. closure. reduction.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

The Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-193, 42 USC 601, *et seq.* The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FIP pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and 1999 AC, Rule 400.3101 through Rule 400.3131. FIP replaced the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program effective October 1, 1996.

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 (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and 1999 AC, Rule 400.3001 through Rule 400.3015.

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 (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105.

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program which provides financial assistance for disabled persons is established by 2004 PA 344. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and 2000 AACS, Rule 400.3151 through Rule 400.3180.

The Child Development and Care (CDC) 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 provides services to adults and children pursuant to MCL 400.14(1) and 1999 AC, Rule 400.5001 through Rule 400.5015.

The Adult Medical Program (AMP) is established by 42 USC 1315, and is administered by the Department pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*

Additionally, the Department must periodically redetermine an individual's continued eligibility for benefits. BAM 220. In this case, the Department sent Claimant a redetermination form (DHS 1010) on October 13, 2011, in connection with his FAP and AMP benefits. Claimant was required to complete the form and submit requested proofs by October 13, 2011. Claimant was also required to participate in a telephone interview on October 13, 2011. The Department did not receive the completed documentation by October 13, 2011, and Claimant did not call in as required on October 13, 2011. The Department sent Claimant a Notice of Missed Interview on October 13, 2011, informing Claimant that he had missed his phone interview and was required to reschedule his interview before October 31, 2011, or his redetermination for FAP benefits would be denied. On October 20, 2011, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action informing him that his AMP case was to close effective November 1, 2011, based on his failure to provide requested verifications. Claimant's FAP case was also closed based on failure to provide requested verifications.

At the hearing, Claimant could not verify whether or not he had received the notices sent by the Department. He did recall receiving one notice but could not verify which document he had received. He testified that he had memory problems that prevented him from remembering things. He also testified that he did not read or write English and depended on others to assist him.

The Department has a responsibility to assist clients who request assistance, particularly clients who are not fluent in English or who are disabled. BAM 105. However, the Department testified that it was not aware of Claimant's language or disability issues prior to the hearing. Further, although Claimant testified that he came to Department's offices seeking assistance, he could not remember when he came, in particular whether he came before his FAP and AMP cases were closed. Under the circumstances in this case, the Department acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed Claimant's FAP and AMP cases for failure to return the requested redetermination form and proofs in order to allow the Department to determine Claimant's continued eligibility for benefits.

Based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, the Administrative Law Judge concludes that the Department

properly improperly

- closed Claimant's case.
- denied Claimant's application.
- reduced Claimant's benefits.

DECISION AND ORDER


The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, finds that the Department

did act properly. did not act properly.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED REVERSED for the reasons stated above and on the record.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO DO THE FOLLOWING WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1.



Alice C. Elkin
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: December 8, 2011

Date Mailed: December 8, 2011

NOTICE: Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) may order a rehearing or reconsideration on either its own motion or at the request of a party within 30 days of the receipt date of this Decision and Order. MAHS 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. (60 days for FAP cases)

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.

Claimant may request a rehearing or reconsideration for the following reasons:

- A rehearing **MAY** be granted if there is newly discovered evidence that could affect the outcome of the original hearing decision.
- A reconsideration **MAY** be granted for any of the following reasons:
 - misapplication of manual policy or law in the hearing decision,

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- typographical errors, mathematical error, or other obvious errors in the hearing decision that effect the substantial rights of the claimant:
- the failure of the ALJ to address other relevant issues in the hearing decision.

Request must be submitted through the local DHS office or directly to MAHS by mail at

Michigan Administrative Hearings

Re consideration/Rehearing Request

P. O. Box 30639

Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

ACE/ctl

cc:

[REDACTED]

Macomb County DHS (36)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]