

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.: 2010-1553
Issue No.: 3002
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Load No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date:
November 9, 2009
Wayne County DHS (19)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Michael J. Bennane

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9; MSA 16.409 and MCL 400.37; MSA 16.437 upon the Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice a telephone hearing was held on November 9, 2009. The Claimant personally appeared and testified.

ISSUE

Did the Department correctly calculate the Claimant's Food Assistance (FAP)?

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 an ongoing FAP recipient.
- (2) On April 22, 2009, the department sent the claimant a verification checklist and requested various pieces of verification. (Department exhibit 1).
- (3) On May, 20, 2009, the claimant sent the department the requested verifications.
- (4) On August 18, 2009, the Claimant filed a request for a hearing.

- (5) On October 2, 2009, the department ran a FAP budget that included no expenses for shelter and utilities. (Department exhibit 2).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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 of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the FAP program pursuant to MCL 400.10, et seq., and MAC R 400.3001-3015. Department policies are found in the Program Administrative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Tables (PRT).

Obtaining Verification

All Programs

Tell the client what verification is required, how to obtain it, and the due date (see “[Timeliness Standards](#)” in this item). Use the DHS-3503, Verification Checklist, or for MA redeterminations, the DHS-1175, MA Determination Notice, to request verification.

Use the DHS-3503C, Verification Checklist for Citizenship/Identity to request documentation of citizenship or identity for FIP, SDA, and Medicaid determinations.

The client must obtain required verification, but you must assist if they need and request help.

If neither the client nor you can obtain verification despite a reasonable effort, use the best available information. If **no** evidence is available, use your best judgment. (PAM 130, pp.2-3).

Here, the claimant provided documentation that she had sent the requested verifications via facsimile and was able to produce documentation that she also appeared at the department on May 4, 2009, at which time the claimant stated that she provided the department with the requested verifications.

This ALJ finds that the claimant did in fact send the requested verifications to the department in a timely manner.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, REVERSES AND ORDERS the Department to accept documentation of the claimant's shelter and utility expenses and recalculate the claimant's FAP, replacing any lost benefits.



Michael J. Bennane
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 1/19/2010

Date Mailed: 1/19/2010

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.

MJB/jlg

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