

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: 2010-16669

Issue No: 3020

Case No:

Load No:

Hearing Date:

February 24, 2010

Eaton County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Steven M. Brown

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was conducted from [REDACTED] on February 24, 2010.

ISSUE

Whether the Department made an error in computing Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits which resulted in an overissuance to Claimant that it is entitled to recoup?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

- (1) On January 26, 2009, Claimant applied for FAP and MA benefits.
(Exhibits 1-16)
- (2) Claimant provided the Department documentation related to her unemployment claim. (Exhibits 17)

(3) On March 30, 2009, the Department received Claimant's Redetermination which listed unemployment benefits. The Department, in turn, verified Claimant was receiving unemployment benefits. (Exhibits 20-26)

(4) The Department had not previously budgeted the unemployment benefits.

(5) The Department completed correct budgets for March and April 2009. The Department's error resulted in an overissuance of FAP benefits to Claimant in the amount of [REDACTED]. (Exhibits 27-31)

(6) On December 1, 2009, the Department mailed Claimant a Notice of Overissuance which explained that she was overissued benefits in the amount of [REDACTED] for the months of March and April 2009 due to agency error. (Exhibits 37-41)

(7) On December 9, 2009, the Department received Claimant's hearing request protesting the Department's request for repayment of the overissuance.

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 (DHS or department), 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 Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

An overissuance is the amount of benefits issued to the client group or CDC provider in excess of what they were eligible to receive. BAM 705, p.5 The amount of the overissuance is the amount of benefits the group or provider actually received minus

the amount the group was eligible to receive. BAM 720, p.6 When a client group receives more benefits than they are entitled to receive, DHS must attempt to recoup the overissuance (OI). BAM, p.1 Agency errors are caused by incorrect actions by DHS. BAM 705, p.1 Client errors occur when the customer gave incorrect or incomplete information to the Department. BAM 700, p. 4, 5

In the instant case, there is no question that the Department's error resulted in the overissuance of FAP benefits to Claimant. The Department, however, is required to seek recoupment per department policy. With that said, I find that the Department followed policy in seeking recoupment of the overissuance of FAP benefits to Claimant.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that the Department acted in accordance with policy in seeking recoupment of the overissuance of FAP benefits to Claimant.

Accordingly, the Department's FAP eligibility determination AFFIRMED, it is SO ORDERED.

/S/ _____
Steven M. Brown
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: March 4, 2010

Date Mailed: March 5, 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.

SMB/db

cc:

