

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: 2010-2749  
Issue No: 2009; 4031  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Load No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date:  
November 24, 2009  
Muskegon County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Gary F. Heisler

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 held on November 24, 2009. Claimant personally appeared and testified.

ISSUES

- (1) Did the Department of Human Services properly determine that Claimant is not disabled and deny Claimant's application for Medical Assistance (MA) based on disability?
- (2) Did the Department of Human Services properly determine that Claimant is not disabled and deny Claimant's application for State Disability Assistance (SDA)?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. On July 16, 2009, Claimant submitted an application for Medical Assistance (MA) and State Disability Assistance (SDA).
2. On September 1, 2009, the Department's Medical Review Team determined that the claimant was not disabled for MA and SDA eligibility purposes.

3. On September 3, 2009, the Department sent the claimant an Application Eligibility Notice denying his MA and SDA application.

4. Claimant requested a hearing on September 11, 2009.

5. On October 28, 2009, the Department's State Hearing Review Team (SHRT) also determined that the claimant was not disabled.

6. Claimant presented additional medical information following the hearing. This information was forwarded to SHRT for additional review.

7. On December 15, 2009, SHRT advised that the claimant has been approved for Social Security disability benefits on November 30, 2009, with a July 20, 2009 disability onset.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by 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 (DHS or department) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105. Department policies are found in the Program Administrative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program which provides financial assistance for disabled persons is established by 2004 PA 344. The Department of Human Services (DHS or department) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MAC R 400.3151-400.3180. Department policies are found in the Program Administrative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

According to federal regulations at 42 CFR 435.541 the Social Security Administration (SSA) determination of disability is final and binding on DHS. In the present case, evidence of the favorable SSA decision established that the claimant met the federal disability standard necessary to qualify for MA and SDA pursuant to PEM 260 and 261.

The SSA determined claimant has been disabled since July 20, 2009. Consequently, the department must reverse its MA and SDA denial, and process claimant's July 16, 2009 application in accordance with department policy.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the department erred in determining claimant is not disabled.

It is ORDERED that the actions of the Department of Human Services, in this matter, are REVERSED.

It is further ORDERED that the Department shall:

1. Process claimant's disputed MA and SDA application and issue him any benefits he was entitled to but did not receive, based on (insert date) application date, if he is otherwise eligible to receive them (i.e. meets all of the other required eligibility criteria including completion of a repayment agreement for SDA benefits from any SSA benefits he is approved for the same period of time).

2. Consider any retroactive SSA benefits claimant may have received for the same period of time of the SDA application, to avoid duplicative issuance of benefits, as the claimant would not be eligible for SDA benefits during the period of time covered by SSA benefits.

/s/  
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Gary F. Heisler  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Ismael Ahmed, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: February 16, 2010

Date Mailed: February 18, 2010

