

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: 2010-33977
Issue No: 3008
Case No: [REDACTED]
Load No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date:
June 8, 2010
Kalamazoo 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 June 8, 2010. Claimant appeared and testified.

ISSUE

Did the Department of Human Services properly close Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) case due to failure to provide required verifications?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

(1) Claimant was an ongoing recipient of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits. Claimant was receiving benefits under the Simplified Reporting Program and has a Semi-Annual Contact Report (DHS-1046) due in March 2010.

(2) On March 19, 2010, Claimant submitted the required Semi-Annual Contact Report

(DHS-1046). The report indicated that no one in the home had income from working.

(3) Claimant was sent notice that verification of income was required by April 15, 2010.

(4) On April 16, 2010, Claimant and the Department case worker spoke by telephone and it was explained to Claimant that the Department required verification that her employment had ended. Claimant was sent a Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) stating her Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits would end on April 30, 2010.

(5) On April 30, 2010, Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) case was closed.

(6) On May 4, 2010, the Department received a letter from Claimant's previous employer stating her employment had ended in December 2009.

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

In this case it is undisputed that the Department did not receive the required income verification until after Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) case had closed. Department policy provides the following guidance for case workers. The Department's policies are available on the internet through the Department's website.

VERIFICATION AND COLLATERAL CONTACTS

DEPARTMENT POLICY

All Type of Assistance (TOA)

Verification means documentation or other evidence to establish the accuracy of the client's verbal or written statements.

Obtain verification when:

- Required by policy. BE M items specify which factors and under what circumstances verification is required.
- Required as a local office option. The requirement **must** be applied the same for every client. Local requirements may **not** be imposed for MA, TMA-Plus or AMP.
- Information regarding an eligibility factor is unclear, inconsistent, incomplete or contradictory. The questionable information might be from the client or a third party.

Verification is usually required at application/redetermination **and** for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level.

Timeliness of Verifications

CDC, FIP, FAP

Allow the client 10 calendar days (**or** other time limit specified in policy) to provide the verification you request. If the client cannot provide the verification despite a reasonable effort, extend the time limit at least once.

Verifications are considered to be timely if received by the date they are due. For electronically transmitted verifications (fax, email), the date of the transmission is the receipt date. Verifications that are submitted after the close of regular business hours through the drop box or by delivery of a DHS representative are considered to be received the next business day.

Send a negative action notice when:

- The client indicates refusal to provide a verification, **or**
- The time period given has elapsed and the client has **not** made a reasonable effort to provide it. (BAM 130)

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides the Department of Human Services properly closed Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) case due to failure to provide required verifications.

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

/s/

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

Date Signed: June 14, 2010

Date Mailed: June 14, 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.

GHF/alc

cc:

