

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 201040384  
Issue No.: 2026  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Load No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: October 28, 2010  
Wayne County DHS (31)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Lynn M. Ferris

**HEARING DECISION**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on October 28, 2010. The claimant appeared and testified. [REDACTED], ES appeared and testified on behalf of the department.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly compute the Claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) deductible?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. On July 1, 2010, the department placed the claimant in a MA spend down (deductible). The deductible currently is \$582 per month, based on an unearned countable income from RSDI of \$977. (Department exhibit 1).
2. The claimant confirmed the amount of her unearned income at the hearing.
3. The claimant's Medical Assistance changed from SSI Medicaid to a deductible when the claimant began receiving Social Security disability income.
4. The claimant understood that her spend down amount was \$582 per month and did not dispute the department's determination or of the computation of the claimant's spend down amount.

5. A series of questions raised by the claimant were answered by the department at the hearing and as a result the claimant no longer wished to proceed with the hearing or further pursue the computation of the spend down amount as determined by the department.
6. On May 18, 2010 the Claimant filed a request for a hearing protesting the deductible amount placed on her MA on indicating that she could not pay the deductible amount in needed medical help. The claimant's hearing request was received by the department on May 20, 2010.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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 of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

In the instant case, the Claimant questions the Department's calculation of her Medical Assistance (MA).

The undersigned has reviewed the MA budget and found it to be correct. The claimant's unearned income is \$977.00, per month a \$20.00 standard exclusion, and a protected income limit of \$375.00 equals a \$582.00 deductible.

The protected income level (PIL) is a set allowance for non-medical need items such as shelter, food and incidental expenses.

PRT 240 lists the Group 1 MA PILs based on shelter area and fiscal group size. (PEM 544, p. 1)

And:

The claimant lives in area IV and the protected income level is \$375.00 for a group of one. (RFT 240, p.1).


This ALJ sympathizes with the claimant but there is nothing that can be done to change the above equation. Additionally, as a result of the claimant confirming that she understood the basis upon which the spend down was determined by the department that she no longer required to hearing, this administrative law judge has determined

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that the spend down is correct and that an order of dismissal is appropriate. The claimant is encouraged to provide the department her ongoing medical expenses which will assist her in meeting her deductible amount on a monthly basis.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, AFFIRMS the Department's decision in the instant case and accordingly finds that the claimant's request for rehearing is DISMISSED.



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Lynn M. Ferris  
Administrative Law Judge  
For Ismael Ahmed, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 11/01/2010

Date Mailed: 11/01/2010

**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 90 days of the filing of the original request.

The Claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the mailing 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.

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