

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 201047223
Issue No: 2006
Hearing Date: November 9, 2010
St Clair County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Janice G. Spodarek

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 3-way telephone hearing was held on November 9, 2010. Claimant was represented at the hearing by [REDACTED] and by his guardian.

ISSUE

Did the DHS properly deny claimant's January 26, 2010 MA application due to the failure to provide verification?

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 January 26, 2010, claimant applied for MA.
2. On February 18, 2010, the DHS issued two verification checklists—one for medical information and the other for general identification verification. The verifications were due by March 1, 2010.
3. On March 1, 2010, [REDACTED] faxed 20 pages. Among the pages is a statement from [REDACTED] that claimant did not have a bank account during the time frame requested.
4. On June 2, 2010, the DHS denied for failure to provide verification.
5. On June 10, 2010, claimant filed a hearing request.

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 BRIDGES Administrative Manual (BAM), the BRIDGES Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the BRIDGES Reference Manual (BRM).

General verification policy and procedure starts in part:

DEPARTMENT POLICY

All Programs

Clients have rights and responsibilities as specified in this item.

The local office must do **all** of the following:

- . Determine eligibility.
- . Calculate the level of benefits.
- . Protect client rights. PAM, Item 105, p. 1.

All Programs

Clients must completely and truthfully answer all questions on forms and in interviews. PAM, Item 105, p. 5.

The client might be unable to answer a question about himself or another person whose circumstances must be known. Allow the client at least 10 days (or other timeframe specified in policy) to obtain the needed information. PAM, Item 105, p. 5.

Refusal to Cooperate Penalties

All Programs

Clients who are able but refuse to provide necessary information or take a required action are subject to penalties. PAM, Item 105, p. 5.

Responsibility to Report Changes

All Programs

This section applies to all groups **except** most FAP groups with earnings.

Clients must report changes in circumstances that potentially affect eligibility or benefit amount. Changes must be reported **within 10 days**:

- . after the client is aware of them, or
- . the start date of employment. PAM, Item 105, p. 7.

Verifications

All Programs

Clients must take actions within their ability to obtain verifications. DHS staff must assist when necessary. See PAM 130 and PEM 702. PAM, Item 105, p. 8.

Assisting the Client

All Programs

The local office must assist clients who ask for help in completing forms (including the DCH-0733-D) or gathering verifications. Particular sensitivity must be shown to clients who are illiterate, disabled or **not** fluent in English. PAM, Item 105, p. 9.

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. PAM, Item 130, p. 2.

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. PAM, Item 130, p. 4.

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MA Only

Send a negative action notice when:

- . the client indicates refusal to provide a verification, **or**
- . the time period given has elapsed. PAM, Item 130, p. 4.

In this case, the department's evidence indicates that it clearly indicated to claimant what was necessary for verification and when it was due.

A review of the record which includes copies of faxes and verifications sent to the department from [REDACTED] indicates that [REDACTED] S did in fact verify claimant's assets with regards to a bank account. [REDACTED] notified L & S on February 18, 2010 that claimant did not have a deposit account during the time frame requested. That fax was sent to the DHS.

As DHS complied with the department's request with regards to the asset verification, the department was incorrect in denying claimant and must be reversed.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the department's actions were incorrect.

Accordingly, the department's denial for failure to provide verification is REVERSED.

The department is Ordered to reinstate claimant's January 26, 2010 application, including any retro months. The department shall forward the case to MRT as provided under DHS policy and procedure.

/S/ _____
Janice G. Spodarek
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura D. Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: May 24, 2011

Date Mailed: May 24, 2011

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.

JGS/db

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