

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 201052589
Issue No.: 6019
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Load No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: October 6, 2010
Oakland County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Aaron McClintic

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 6, 2010. The Claimant appeared at the hearing and testified. [REDACTED], FIM and [REDACTED] appeared on behalf of the Department.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Claimant's Child Day Care eligibility?

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 applied for Child Day Care benefits on May 6, 2010.
2. Claimant application was denied on June 16, 2010 due to failure to provide verifications.
3. Claimant requested an extension prior to the deadline.
4. Claimant's application for Child Day Care was denied on June 16, 2010 for failure to provide verifications.
5. Claimant requested a hearing on August 12, 2010 regarding the denial of her Child Day Care application.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Child Development and Care program is established by Titles IVA, IVE and XX of the Social Security Act, the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990, and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. The program is implemented by Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 98 and 99. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) provides services to adults and children pursuant to MCL 400.14(1) and MAC R 400.5001-5015. Department policies are contained in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

Clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility to provide verification. BAM 130, p. 1. The questionable information might be from the client or a third party. Id. The Department can use documents, collateral contacts or home calls to verify information. Id. The client should be allowed 10 calendar days to provide the verification. If the client cannot provide the verification despite a reasonable effort, the time limit to provide should be extended at least once. BAM 130, p.4; BEM 702. If the client refuses to provide the information or has not made a reasonable effort within the specified time period, then policy directs that a negative action be issued. BAM 130, p. 4. Before making an eligibility determination, however, the department must give the client a reasonable opportunity to resolve any discrepancy between his statements and information from another source. BAM 130, p. 6.

In the present case, Claimant was sent a verification checklist requesting verifications before June 14, 2010. Claimant credibly testified that she requested an extension on her case worker's voicemail prior to the deadline. The case worker at hearing could neither confirm nor deny whether the request for an extension was received. Department policy clearly states that extensions should be given. BAM 130. Therefore, the Department was incorrect to deny Claimant's application for failing to return verifications.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law decides that the Department improperly denied Claimant's day care application, and it is ORDERED that the Department's decision in this regard be and is hereby REVERSED. Claimant's child day care application shall be reinstated and reprocessed

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back to the date of application.

/s/ Aaron McClintic

Aaron McClintic
Administrative Law Judge
For Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: October 13, 2010

Date Mailed: October 13, 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.

AM/hw

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