

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: 201052925

Issue No: 2026

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

County DHS

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Kevin Scully

**HEARING DECISION**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge by authority of MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37. Claimant's request for a hearing was received on August 19, 2010. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on Thursday, January 13, 2011.

**ISSUE**

Whether the Department of Human Services (Department) properly determined the Claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) 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. The Claimant is an ongoing recipient of Medical Assistance (MA) benefits in Clare County.
2. The Claimant was enrolled in MA under the Transitional Medicaid (TMA) category until September 30, 2010.
3. On July 30, 2010, the Department completed a routine redetermination of the Claimant's eligibility to receive assistance.
4. The Claimant receives monthly earned income in the gross monthly amount of [REDACTED]
5. The Department completed a MA budget that determined the Claimant was eligible for MA benefits with a [REDACTED] deductible.

6. On August 4, 2010, the Department notified the Claimant that effective October 1, 2010, she would no longer receive MA-TMA benefits but would receive MA benefits under the Group 2 Caretaker Relative category with a [REDACTED] deductible.
7. The Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing on August 19, 2010, protesting her Medical Assistance deductible.

### **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), Reference Table Manual (RFT), and the Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

The goal of the Medicaid program is to ensure that essential health care services are made available to those who otherwise could not afford them. Medicaid is also known as Medical Assistance (MA). BEM 105.

The State of Michigan has set guidelines for income, which determine if an MA group is eligible. Income eligibility exists for the calendar month tested when:

- There is no excess income, or
- Allowable medical expenses equal or exceed the excess income. BEM 545.

Net income (countable income minus allowable income deductions) must be at or below a certain income limit for eligibility to exist. BEM 105. Income eligibility exists when net income does not exceed the Group 2 needs in BEM 544. BEM 166. The protected income level is a set allowance for non-medical need items such as shelter, food and incidental expenses. RFT 240 lists the Group 2 MA protected income levels based on shelter area and fiscal group size. BEM 544. An eligible Medical Assistance group (Group 2 MA) has income the same as or less than the "protected income level" as set forth in the policy contained in the Program Reference Table (RFT). An individual or MA group whose income is in excess of the monthly protected income level is ineligible to receive MA. However, a MA group may become eligible for assistance under the deductible program. The deductible program is a process, which allows a client with excess income to be eligible for MA, if sufficient allowable medical expenses are incurred. Each calendar month is a separate deductible period. The fiscal group's monthly excess income is called the deductible amount. Meeting a deductible means reporting and verifying allowable medical expenses that equal or exceed the deductible amount for the calendar month. The MA group must report expenses by the last day of the third month following the month it wants medical coverage. BEM 545; 42 CFR 435.831.

A review of the claimant's case reveals that department budgeted the correct amount of earned income received by the claimant. The Claimant's "protected income level" is [REDACTED], and this amount cannot be changed either by the department or by this Administrative Law Judge. Department's determination that the claimant has a \$283 deductible per month she must meet in order to qualify for MA for any medical expenses above that amount is therefore correct.

The Claimant argued that she cannot afford to pay her monthly expenses with a \$283 deductible on her Medical Assistance. However, the claimant's grievance centers on dissatisfaction with the department's current policy. The claimant's request is not within the scope of authority delegated to this Administrative Law Judge. Administrative Law Judges have no authority to make decisions on constitutional grounds, overrule statutes, overrule promulgated regulations, or make exceptions to the department policy set out in the program manuals. Furthermore, administrative adjudication is an exercise of executive power rather than judicial power, and restricts the granting of equitable remedies. Michigan Mutual Liability Co. v Baker, 295 Mich 237; 294 NW 168 (1940).

The Department has established that it properly determined that the Claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) deductible.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department acted in accordance with policy in determining the Claimant's MA eligibility.

The Department's MA eligibility determination is AFFIRMED. It is SO ORDERED.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Scully  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura D. Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: \_1/26/11\_\_\_\_\_

Date Mailed: \_\_1/27/11\_\_\_\_\_

