

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.: 2011-19912
Issue No.: 3000
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: March 14, 2011
DHS County: SSPC-East (97-98)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jan Leventer

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL) 400.9 and 400.37, and Claimant [REDACTED] request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on March 14, 2011. Claimant appeared and testified at the hearing. [REDACTED], appeared and testified on behalf of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

ISSUE

Whether DHS denied Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits in accordance with DHS policies and procedures?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. On December 13, 2010, Claimant applied for FAP benefits with DHS.
2. On January 8, 2011, DHS sent Claimant a Verification Checklist, a Verification of Employment form, and a Shelter Verification form.
3. Claimant submitted all of the required materials.
4. DHS did not receive, or misplaced, or lost Claimant's verification of employment.
5. At the Administrative Hearing held on March 14, 2011, DHS offered to reinstate and reprocess Claimant's application, including providing her with a reasonable opportunity to resubmit employment verification as required.

6. As a result of DHS' offer, Claimant indicated she no longer wished to proceed with the Administrative Hearing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

FAP was established by the U.S. Food Stamp Act of 1977 and is implemented by Federal regulations contained in Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations. DHS administers the FAP program pursuant to MCL 400.10 *et seq.* and Michigan Administrative Code Rules 400.3001-400.3015. DHS' policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Reference Tables (RFT). These manuals are available online at www.michigan.gov/dhs-manuals.

Under BAM Item 600, clients have the right to contest any DHS decision affecting eligibility or benefit levels whenever they believe the decision is illegal. DHS provides an Administrative Hearing to review the decision and determine if it is appropriate. DHS policy includes procedures to meet the minimal requirements for a fair hearing. Efforts to clarify and resolve the client's concerns start when DHS receives a hearing request and continue through the day of the hearing.

In this case, the parties stipulated to a settlement agreement whereby DHS will reopen and reprocess Claimant's FAP application and allow her additional time to resubmit employment verification. DHS will then make an eligibility determination. As the parties have reached an agreement, it is not necessary for the Administrative Law Judge to decide the issues presented in this case.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact, conclusions of law, and the settlement agreement of the parties, states IT IS ORDERED that DHS shall reopen and reprocess Claimant's FAP application, allowing her additional time in which to resubmit her employment verification. DHS shall take all steps in accordance with DHS policies and procedures.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Jan Leventer
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: March 21, 2011

2011-19912/JL

Date Mailed: March 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 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.

JL/pf

cc:

