

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

IN THE MATTER OF:  
Issue



Reg. No.: 2011-25717  
No.: 1003  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: May 18, 2011  
DHS County: Wayne (41)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Michael J. Bennane

**HEARING DECISION**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9; MSA 16.409 and MCL 400.37; MSA 16.437 upon the Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice a telephone hearing was held on May 18, 2011. The Claimant appeared and testified.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department of Human Services (Department) properly close the Claimant's Family Independence Program (FIP)?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. On December 31, 2010, the Department closed the Claimant's FIP for noncooperation with the Office of Child Support (OCS).
2. On January 4, 2011, the Claimant filed a request for a hearing.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-193, 8 USC 601, *et seq.* The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the FIP program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MAC R 400.3101-3131. The FIP program replaced the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program effective October 1, 1996. Department

policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

The Department received information that the Claimant had failed to cooperate with the Office of Child Support (OCS).

At the hearing the Claimant testified that she had supplied all of the information she had concerning the child's father and thus had complied with OCS.


In *Black v Dept of Social Services*, 195 Mich App 27 (1992), the Court of Appeals addressed the issue of burden of proof in a non-cooperation finding. Specifically, the court in *Black* ruled that to support a finding of non-cooperation, the agency has the burden of proof to establish that the mother (1) failed to provide the requested verification and that (2) the mother knew the requested information. The *Black* court also emphasized the fact that the mother testified under oath that she had no further information and the agency failed to offer any evidence that the mother knew more than she was disclosing. *Black* at 32-34.

This Administrative Law Judge finds the Claimant's testimony to be controlling. The OCS did not attend the hearing and the only evidence presented that the Claimant had not complied was the testimony of the Department stating that it had received a notice of noncompliance from OCS and the testimony of the Claimant that she had complied.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, REVERSES and ORDERS the Department to reinstate the Claimant's FIP back to the date of closure December 31, 2010, and replace any lost benefits.

Michael  
Administrative  
for  
Department

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J. Bennane  
Law Judge  
Maura Corrigan, Director  
of Human Services

Date Signed: June 28, 2011

Date Mailed: June 28, 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.

MJB/cl

cc:

