

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 2011-5077

Issue No: 3008

Case No: [REDACTED]

Load No: [REDACTED]

Hearing Date:

December 9, 2010

Isabella County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Gary F. Heisler

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 hearing was held on December 9, 2010. Claimant appeared and testified.

ISSUE

Did the Department of Human Services properly deny Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) application for failure to provide required documents and verifications?

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 August 31, 2010 Claimant submitted an application for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.
- (2) On September 3, 2010 Claimant was sent a Verification Checklist (DHS Form 3503) requesting verification of several factors needed to determine eligibility. The verifications were due on September 13, 2010.
- (3) On October 1, 2010 the required verifications had not been received by the Department. Claimant was sent a Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) stating that her application was denied.
- (4) On October 25, 2010 Claimant submitted a request for hearing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Food Assistance Program (FAP) (formerly known as the Food Stamp (FS) program) is established by the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and is implemented by the federal regulations contained in Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department of Human Services (DHS or department) administers the FAP program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MAC R 400.3001-3015. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

In this case Claimant testified that she had gotten the Verification Checklist (DHS Form 3503) but did not get the required items in on time because she was having some difficulty obtaining them. Claimant did not request an extension of time to get the verifications or assistance with obtaining the verifications. Department policy provides the following guidance for case workers. The Department's policies are available on the internet through the Department's website.

BAM 130 VERIFICATION AND COLLATERAL CONTACTS

DEPARTMENT POLICY

All Type of Assistance (TOA)

Verification means documentation or other evidence to establish the accuracy of the client's verbal or written statements.

Obtain verification when:

- Required by policy. BEM items specify which factors and under what circumstances verification is required.
- Required as a local office option. The requirement **must** be applied the same for every client. Local requirements may **not** be imposed for MA, TMA-Plus or AMP.
- Information regarding an eligibility factor is unclear, inconsistent, incomplete or contradictory. The questionable information might be from the client or a third party.

Verification is usually required at application/redetermination **and** for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level.

Verification

All TOA

Tell the client what verification is required, how to obtain it, and the due date (see [Timeliness of Verifications](#) in this item). Use the DHS-3503, Verification Checklist, or for MA redeterminations, the DHS-1175, MA Determination Notice, to request verification.

The client must obtain required verification, but you must assist if they need and request help.

Timeliness of Verifications FIP, SDA, CDC, FAP

Allow the client 10 calendar days (**or** other time limit specified in policy) to provide the verification you request.

Verifications are considered to be timely if received by the date they are due. For electronically transmitted verifications (fax, email), the date of the transmission is the receipt date. Verifications that are submitted after the close of regular business hours through the drop box or by delivery of a DHS representative are considered to be received the next business day.

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.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides the Department of Human Services properly denied Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) application for failure to provide required documents and verifications.

It is ORDERED that the actions of the Department of Human Services, in this matter, are UPHeld.

/s/ _____

Gary F. Heisler
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: December 28, 2010

Date Mailed: December 29, 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 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.

GFH/tg

cc:

