

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:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**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 telephone hearing was held on [REDACTED]. The claimant did not appear, but was represented [REDACTED]

**ISSUE**

Did the department properly deny the claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) application for failure to return the required 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. The claimant submitted an application for MA benefits on [REDACTED]. However, the claimant did not sign the application. It was signed [REDACTED]. There was no authorization included for [REDACTED] to sign the application for claimant. (Department Exhibit 1)
2. On [REDACTED] the department mailed the claimant and [REDACTED] Verification Checklist (DHS-3503) and a Notice of Missing Information (DHS-330), requiring the claimant to provide a signature of the applicant or proof of authorized representative and paycheck stubs from the previous four weeks. (Department Exhibit 3 – 5)
3. On [REDACTED] the department denied the claimant's application for failure to provide the department with necessary information. (Claimant Exhibit 1)

4. The claimant submitted a hearing request on [REDACTED], designating [REDACTED] as his representative for hearing. (Hearing Request)

### **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) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

Department policy states:

#### **CLIENT OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES**

##### **Responsibility to Cooperate**

##### **All Programs**

**Clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility. This includes completion of the necessary forms. BAM, Item 105, p. 5.**

##### **Refusal to Cooperate Penalties**

##### **All Programs**

Clients who are able but refuse to provide necessary information or take a required action are subject to penalties. BAM, Item 105, p. 5.

##### **Verifications**

##### **All Programs**

Clients must take actions within their ability to obtain verifications. DHS staff must assist when necessary. See BAM 130 and BEM 702. BAM, Item 105, p. 8.

##### **Assisting the Client**

##### **All Programs**

The local office must assist clients who ask for help in completing forms (including the DCH-0733-D) or gathering verifications. Particular sensitivity must be shown to clients who are illiterate, disabled or **not** fluent in English. BAM, Item 105, p. 9.

Verification is usually required at application/redetermination **and** for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level. BAM, Item 130, p. 1.

## **Obtaining Verification**

### **All Programs**

Tell the client what verification is required, how to obtain it, and the due date (see “**Timeliness Standards**” in this item). Use the DHS-3503, Verification Checklist, or for MA redeterminations, the DHS-1175, MA Determination Notice, to request verification. BAM, Item 130, p. 2.

The client must obtain required verification, but you must assist if they need and request help. BAM, Item 130, p. 2.

### **Timeliness Standards**

#### **All Programs (except TMAP)**

Allow the client 10 calendar days (**or** other time limit specified in policy) to provide the verification you request. If the client cannot provide the verification despite a reasonable effort, extend the time limit at least once. BAM, Item 130, p. 4.

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. BAM, Item 130, p. 4.

Claimants are required to comply with the local office to allow the department to determine initial or ongoing eligibility. BAM 105. The department informs the client what verification is required, how to obtain it, and the due date by using the Verification Checklist form (DHS-3503). BAM 130. Clients are provided ten days to return the verifications, but can request an extension of time to provide the verifications. BAM 130. If the time period to provide the verifications elapses and the verifications have not been provided, the department is directed to send a negative action notice. BAM 130. In this case, the department received an application for Medicaid that was not signed by the claimant. There was no authorization for [REDACTED] to sign the application. Application may be made on behalf of a client by his spouse, parent, legal guardian, adult child, stepchild, specified relative or any other person provided the person is at least age 18 or married. If this person is not a spouse, parent, legal guardian, adult child, stepchild, or specified relative the person must have a signed authorization to act on behalf of

the client, by the client, client's spouse, parent(s) or legal guardian. The application form must be signed by the client or the individual acting as his authorized representative. An application received from an agency is acceptable if it is signed by an individual and is accompanied by written documentation from the client authorizing the agency to act as their authorized representative. BAM 110.

When an assistance application is received in the local office without the applicant's signature or without a signed document authorizing someone to act on the applicant's behalf the department must send a DHS-330, Notice of Missing Information, to the client explaining the need for a valid signature. The signature page of the application may be copied and sent to the agency or individual who filled out the application with the notice. The department is to allow 10 days for a response. BAM 110. The notices clearly state that November 1, 2010 is the deadline to provide the requested information.

The department did send a DHS-330, Notice of Missing Information and a DHS-3503, Verification Checklist to both the claimant at his address of record and to LM, the individual who signed the application, in accordance with department policy. The claimant's representative testified that the claimant can not read or write and resides with his mother, who will assist him in opening/reading his mail. The representative also testified that it was possible that her office had received a copy of the DHS-330 and DHS-3503, but that it had not been properly forwarded to her. There was no request for an extension of time to provide the required information. Thus, the department had no choice but to deny the application when the required information was not received.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the department properly denied the claimant's MA application for failure to turn in the required signature/verifications.

Accordingly, the department's actions are UPHeld. SO ORDERED.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
[Redacted Signature]

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

[REDACTED]