

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No. 2011-33262
Issue No.: 2000
Case No. [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: July 14, 2011
Macomb County DHS (20)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Colleen M. Mamelka

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was conducted from Detroit, Michigan on Thursday, July 14, 2011. The Claimant appeared, along with [REDACTED], and testified. [REDACTED] appeared on behalf of the Department of Human Services ("Department").

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly determined that the Claimant was not disabled for purposes of the Medical Assistance ("MA-P") and State Disability Assistance ("SDA") benefit programs?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. The Claimant submitted an application for public assistance seeking MA-P and SDA benefits on October 5, 2010.
2. The Claimant applied for SSI benefits through the Social Security Administration ("SSA").
3. On January 14, 2011, the SSA found the Claimant not disabled.
4. The Claimant did not appeal the SSA determination.

5. On March 29, 2011, the Medical Review Team (“MRT”) found the Claimant not disabled. (Exhibit 1, pp. 1, 2.)
6. On April 6, 2011, the Department notified the Claimant of the MRT determination.
7. On May 3, 2011, the Department received the Claimant’s timely written request for hearing. (Exhibit 2.)

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance (“MA”) program is established by Subchapter XIX of Chapter 7 of The Public Health & Welfare Act, 42 USC 1397, and is administered by the Department of Human Services pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et. seq.* The Department of Human Services, formerly known as the Family Independence Agency, administers the program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et. seq.* and MAC R 400.3001-3015. Departmental policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (“BAM”), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (“BEM”), and the Bridges Reference Manual (“RFT”).

The disability standard for both disability related MA and SSI is the same. BEM 260; BEM 271. When the SSA determines that a client is not disabled/blind for SSI purposes, the client may appeal that determination at SSA. BEM 260. The SSA Appeals Process consists of three steps:

1. Reconsideration (if initial application filed prior to October 1, 1999)
2. Hearing
3. Appeals Council

BEM 260. The client has 60 days from the date he receives a denial notice to appeal a SSA action. BEM 260; BEM 271. A SSA determination becomes final when no further appeals may be made at SSA. BEM 260. Once a SSA’s determination that a disability or blindness does not exist becomes final, the MA case must be closed. BEM 260, BEM 271.

In the record presented, the SSA found the Claimant not disabled on January 14, 2011. The Claimant has not alleged any new disabling impairment. The SSA determination was for the same time period at issue and the denial was not appealed within 60 days. Ultimately, because the SSA decision was not appealed, it became binding on the Claimant’s MA-P case. In light of the foregoing, the Department’s determination is **AFFIRMED**.

The State Disability Assistance program, which provides financial assistance for disabled persons, was established by 2004 PA 344. DHS administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10 *et seq.* and Michigan Administrative Code (“MAC R”) 400.3151 – 400.3180. Department policies are found in BAM, BEM, and BRM. A person is considered disabled for SDA purposes if the person has a physical or mental impairment which meets federal SSI disability standards for at least ninety days. Receipt of SSI or RSDI benefits based on disability or blindness, or the receipt of MA benefits based on disability or blindness automatically qualifies an individual as disabled for purposes of the SDA program.

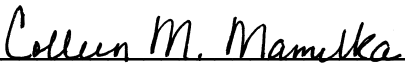
In this case, the Claimant is found not disabled for purposes of the MA-P program; therefore, the Claimant is found not disabled for purposes of SDA benefit program

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds the Claimant not disabled for purposes of the MA-P benefit program.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED:

The Department’s determination is AFFIRMED.



Colleen M. Mamelka
Administrative Law Judge
For Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: July 19, 2011

Date Mailed: July 19, 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.

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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.

CMM/cl

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