

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No. 201138702
Issue No. 2009
Case No. [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: October 17, 2011
Macomb County DHS (12)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Christian Gardocki

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 held on October 17, 2011 from Detroit, Michigan. The Claimant appeared and testified; Andre Dale appeared as Claimant's authorized hearing representative (AHR). On behalf of Department of Human Services (DHS), [REDACTED], Specialist, appeared and testified.

ISSUE

The issue is whether DHS properly initiated termination of Claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) benefits due to a determination that Claimant was not a disabled individual.

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 1/31/11, Claimant applied for MA benefits.
2. Claimant's only basis for MA benefits was for being a disabled individual.
3. On 3/4/11, DHS determined Claimant was not a disabled individual.
4. On 3/31/11, Claimant requested an administrative hearing to dispute the denial of MA benefits.

5. On an unspecified date, the Social Security Administration (SSA) determined Claimant was a disabled individual and approved Claimant for SSA benefits at least as far back to 1/2011.

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). DHS (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) 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 Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

The controlling DHS regulations are those that were in effect as of 1/2011, the month of the application which Claimant contends was wrongly denied. Current DHS manuals may be found online at the following URL: <http://www.mfia.state.mi.us/olmweb/ex/html/>.

MA provides medical assistance to individuals and families who meet financial and nonfinancial eligibility factors. The goal of the MA program is to ensure that essential health care services are made available to those who otherwise would not have financial resources to purchase them.

The Medicaid program is comprised of several sub-programs which fall under one of two categories; one category is FIP-related and the second category is SSI-related. BEM 105 at 1. To receive MA under an SSI-related category, the person must be aged (65 or older), blind, disabled, entitled to Medicare or formerly blind or disabled. *Id.* Families with dependent children, caretaker relatives of dependent children, persons under age 21 and pregnant, or recently pregnant, women receive MA under FIP-related categories. *Id.* AMP is an MA program available to persons not eligible for Medicaid through the SSI-related or FIP-related categories. It was not disputed that Claimant's only potential category for Medicaid would be as a disabled individual.

Disability is established if one of the following circumstances applies (see BEM 260 at 1-2):

- by death (for the month of death);
- the applicant receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits;
- SSI benefits were recently terminated due to financial factors;
- the applicant receives Retirement Survivors and Disability Insurance (RSDI) on the basis of being disabled; or
- RSDI eligibility is established following denial of the MA benefit application (under certain circumstances).

In the present case, it was not disputed that Claimant became eligible for SSI or RSDI benefits for being a disabled individual. The SSA approval based on disability automatically establishes Claimant's disability for purposes of MA benefits. DHS conceded that Claimant was entitled to MA benefit eligibility effective 1/2011 based on the finding by SSA that Claimant was a disabled individual.


MCL 24.278(2) provides for the disposition of a previously disputed case by stipulation and agreement by the parties. As DHS and Claimant reached a settlement that appears to comply with DHS regulations, the agreement of the parties shall be honored.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact, conclusions of law and by agreement of the parties, finds that DHS improperly denied Claimant's MA benefit application dated 1/31/11. It is ordered that DHS:

- reinstate Claimant's MA benefit application dated 1/31/11;
- process the MA benefit application based on the finding that Claimant was and continues to be a disabled individual since at least 1/2011; and
- supplement Claimant for any benefits not received as a result of the improper denial.

The actions taken by DHS are REVERSED.



Christian Gardocki
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: October 19, 2011

Date Mailed: October 19, 2011

NOTICE: Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) 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. MAHS 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. (60 days for FAP cases).

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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.

Claimant may request a rehearing or reconsideration for the following reasons:

- A rehearing **MAY** be granted if there is newly discovered evidence that could affect the outcome of the original hearing decision.
- A reconsideration **MAY** be granted for any of the following reasons:
 - misapplication of manual policy or law in the hearing decision,
 - typographical errors, mathematical error, or other obvious errors in the hearing decision that effect the substantial rights of the claimant:
 - the failure of the ALJ to address other relevant issues in the hearing decision.

Request must be submitted through the local DHS office or directly to MAHS by mail to:

Michigan Administrative hearings
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request
P. O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

CG/hw

cc:

