

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.: 2011-9632
Issue No.: 4003
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Load No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: January 18, 2011
Oakland County DHS (3)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Michael J. Bennane

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 January 18, 2011. The claimant was represented by his mother and Authorized Hearing Representative (AHR) [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close the claimant's State Disability Assistance (SDA)?

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 August 17, 2010, the department sent the claimant a redetermination packet. (Department exhibit 1).
2. On September 17, 2010, the department sent the claimant notice that his SDA was closed. (Department exhibit 5).
3. On October 1, 2010, the Claimant filed a request for a hearing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program which provides financial assistance for disabled persons is established by 2004 PA 344. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10 *et seq.*, and Michigan Administrative Code Rules 4 400.3151-

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400.3180. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

In the instant case, the department was notified that this was to be a three-way hearing with the claimant's AHR taking part from a third phone. The department was notified the week before the hearing and the morning of the hearing of the above but did not take part in the hearing.

The claimant testified that she attempted numerous times to notify the department and seek its assistance concerning problems in obtaining the information requested by the department.

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....

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

If neither the client nor you can obtain verification despite a reasonable effort, use the best available information. If **no** evidence is available, use your best judgment. (PAM 130, p. 2-3)

This ALJ finds that the department did not provide the assistance requested contrary to the policy cited above. Therefore, the department was in error in denying the claimant's SDA.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, **REVERSES AND ORDERS** the department to reopen the claimant's SDA retroactively to the September 17, 2010, date of closure and replace any lost benefits.



Michael J. Bennane
Administrative Law Judge
For Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 2/17/2011

Date Mailed: 2/17/2011

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.

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