

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 201219184
Issue No.: 2001
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: April 18, 2012
County: Wayne (41)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Alice C. Elkin

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 following Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on April 18, 2012, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED] Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Due to a failure to comply with the verification requirements, did the Department properly deny Claimant's application close Claimant's case reduce Claimant's benefits for:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Independence Program (FIP)? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adult Medical Program (AMP)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Assistance Program (FAP)? | <input type="checkbox"/> State Disability Assistance (SDA)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Assistance (MA)? | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Development and Care (CDC)? |

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, including testimony of witnesses, finds as material fact:

1. Claimant applied for was receiving: FIP FAP MA AMP SDA
2. CDC.
3. On September 14, 2011, the Department sent Claimant a redetermination form (DHS-1010).
4. Claimant was required to submit the completed redetermination by October 5, 2011.

5. On November 1, 2011, the Department
 denied Claimant's application
 closed Claimant's case
 reduced Claimant's benefits
for failure to submit a completed redetermination in a timely manner.
6. On October 20, 2011, the Department sent notice of the
 denial of Claimant's application.
 closure of Claimant's case.
 reduction of Claimant's benefits.
7. On October 27, 2011, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting the
 denial. closure. reduction.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

The Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-193, 42 USC 601, *et seq.* The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FIP pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and 1999 AC, Rule 400.3101 through Rule 400.3131. FIP replaced the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program effective October 1, 1996.

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 (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and 1999 AC, Rule 400.3001 through Rule 400.3015.

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by the Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105.

The Adult Medical Program (AMP) is established by 42 USC 1315, and is administered by the Department pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program which provides financial assistance for disabled persons is established by 2004 PA 344. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and 2000 AAC, Rule 400.3151 through Rule 400.3180.

The Child Development and Care (CDC) program is established by Titles IVA, IVE and XX of the Social Security Act, the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990, and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. The program is implemented by Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 98 and 99. The Department provides services to adults and children pursuant to MCL 400.14(1) and 1999 AC, Rule 400.5001 through Rule 400.5015.

Additionally, the Department requires recipients of state benefits to complete redeterminations at least once every twelve months. BAM 210. Medical assistance benefits stop at the end of the benefit period unless a redetermination is completed and a new benefit period is certified. BAM 210.

The Department sent Claimant a Redetermination form on September 14, 2011. Claimant was required to complete the form, sign it, and return it to the Department by October 5, 2011. When the Department did not receive a completed form, it sent Claimant an October 20, 2011 Notice of Case Action, informing him that his AMP coverage would close effective November 1, 2011 based on his failure to return the redetermination form to allow the Department to assess his continued eligibility for assistance.

At the hearing, Claimant denied receiving the redetermination form. Claimant confirmed that the form was properly addressed to him but credibly testified that he had had some issues receiving his mail because he was in the midst of a legal dispute with his landlord. Based on Claimant's credible testimony that he did not receive the redetermination form, the Department did not act in accordance with Department policy when it closed Claimant's AMP case for failure to return the completed redetermination form.

Furthermore, the evidence established that Claimant contacted the Department after he received the October 20, 2011 Notice of Case Action advising him of the pending closure of his AMP case. The facts in this case establish that Claimant contacted the Department and spoke to his worker before the effective date of the closure of his AMP case. Claimant credibly testified that he was informed that his AMP case was closed and, accordingly, filed a request for hearing with respect to his AMP case on October 27, 2011. However, because the case had not yet closed, Claimant, if properly advised, could have avoided closure of his AMP case if given the opportunity to complete and submit his AMP redetermination by October 31, 2011. BAM 205; BAM 220.

Based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, the Administrative Law Judge concludes that the Department

- properly improperly
- closed Claimant's case.
 - denied Claimant's application.
 - reduced Claimant's benefits.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, finds that the Department did act properly. did not act properly.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED REVERSED for the reasons stated on the record.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO DO THE FOLLOWING WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Reinstate Claimant's AMP case effective November 1, 2011;
2. Begin reprocessing Claimant's redetermination in accordance with Department policy; and
3. Issue supplements for any AMP benefits Claimant was eligible to receive but did not from November 1, 2011, ongoing.



Alice C. Elkin
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: April 30, 2012

Date Mailed: April 30, 2012

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 receipt date of this Decision and Order. MAHS will not order a rehearing or reconsideration on the Department's motion where the final decision can not be implemented within 90 days of the filing of the original request. (60 days for FAP cases)

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.

2012-19184/ACE

Request must be submitted through the local DHS office or directly to MAHS by mail at
Michigan Administrative Hearings
Re consideration/Rehearing Request
P. O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

ACE/cl

cc:

