

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No: 2012-20881  
Issue No: 2006;3008  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date:  
January 19, 2012  
Ionia County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Landis Y. Lain

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 January 19, 2012. Claimant personally appeared and testified.

ISSUE

Did the Department of Human Services properly deny claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) case and Food Assistance Program (FAP) application?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

- (1) On November 16, 2011, claimant filed an application for Food Assistance program, Medical Assistance and MSP. A telephone interview was completed November 23, 2011.
- (3) Claimant provided spread sheets for her self employment but did not provide invoices for expenses. Because no expenses were provided, bridges automatically used the standard 25% deduction.
- (4) On December 1, 211 the case was run for eligibility and a verification checklist was generated for her bank statements, self employment statements and identity.

- (5) On December 15, 2011 the case was run for eligibility for FAP and MA. FAP was denied for excess income.
- (6) On December 20, 2011 the Ma case was denied because verification of life insurance was not returned timely.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The regulations governing the hearing and appeal process for applicants and recipients of public assistance in Michigan are found in the Michigan Administrative Code, MAC R 400.901-400.951. An opportunity for a hearing shall be granted to an applicant who requests a hearing because his or her claim for assistance has been denied. MAC R 400.903(1). Clients have the right to contest a department decision affecting eligibility or benefit levels whenever it is believed that the decision is incorrect. The department will provide an administrative hearing to review the decision and determine the appropriateness of that decision. BAM 600.

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 of Human Services (DHS or department) administers the FAP program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MAC R 400.3001-3015. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

For FAP purposes, all earned and unearned income available to Claimant is countable. Earned income means income received from another person or organization or from self-employment for duties that were performed for compensation or profit. Unearned income means all income that is not earned, including but not limited to funds received from the Family Independence Program (FIP), State Disability Assistance (SDA), Child Development and Care (CDC), Medicaid (MA), Social Security Benefits (RSDI/SSI), Veterans Administration (VA), Unemployment Compensation Benefits (UCB), Adult Medical Program (AMP), alimony, and child support payments. The amount counted may be more than the client actually receives because the gross amount is used prior to any deductions. BEM 500.

The department determines a client's eligibility for program benefits based on the client's actual income and/or prospective income. Actual income is income that was already received. Prospective income is income not yet received but expected. Prospective budgeting is the best estimate of the client's future income. BEM 505.

In this case, Claimant had [REDACTED] in unearned income and [REDACTED] in self employment income for a total of [REDACTED]. She was given a [REDACTED] unearned income deduction plus a [REDACTED] unearned income deduction and medical deduction of [REDACTED] for an adjusted monthly gross income of [REDACTED].

Federal regulations at 7 CF 273.10 provide standards for income and the amount of household benefits. In accordance with the federal regulations, the department has prepared income and issuance tables which can be found at RFT 260. This issuance table provides that a household in claimant's circumstances with net income of [REDACTED] is not entitled to a FAP allotment. Therefore, the department's FAP eligibility determination was correct.

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 Program Administrative Manual (BAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

## **DEPARTMENT POLICY**

### **All Programs**

Clients have rights and responsibilities as specified in this item.

The local office must do **all** of the following:

- . Determine eligibility.
- . Calculate the level of benefits.
- . Protect client rights. BAM, Item 105, p. 1.

## **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.

#### **Client Cooperation**

The client is responsible for providing evidence needed to prove disability or blindness. However, you must assist the client when they need your help to obtain it. Such help includes the following:

- . Scheduling medical exam appointments
- . Paying for medical evidence and medical transportation
- . See BAM 815 and 825 for details. BEM, Item

260, p. 4.

A client who refuses or fails to submit to an exam necessary to determine disability or blindness **cannot** be determined disabled or blind and you may deny or close the case. BEM, Item 260, p. 4.

### **All Programs**

Clients must completely and truthfully answer all questions on forms and in interviews. BAM, Item 105, p. 5.

The client might be unable to answer a question about himself or another person whose circumstances must be known. Allow the client at least 10 days (or other timeframe specified in policy) to obtain the needed information. BAM, Item 105, p. 5.

### **FAP Only**

Do **not** deny eligibility due to failure to cooperate with a verification request by a person **outside** the group. In applying this policy, a person is considered a group member if residing with the group and is disqualified. 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.

### **Responsibility to Report Changes**

#### **All Programs**

This section applies to all groups **except** most FAP groups with earnings.

Clients must report changes in circumstances that potentially affect eligibility or benefit amount. Changes must be reported **within 10 days**:

- . after the client is aware of them, or
- . the start date of employment. BAM, Item 105, p. 7.

**Income** reporting requirements are limited to the following:

- . Earned income
  - .. Starting or stopping employment
  - .. Changing employers
  - .. Change in rate of pay
  - .. Change in work hours of more than 5 hours per week that is expected to continue for more than one month
  
- . Unearned income
  - .. Starting or stopping a source of unearned income
  - .. Change in gross monthly income of more than \$50 since the last reported change. BAM, Item 105, p. 7.

See BAM 220 for processing reported changes.

Other reporting requirements include, but are **not** limited to, changes in:

- . Persons in the home
  
- . Marital status
  
- . Address and shelter cost changes that result from the move
  
- . Vehicles
  
- . Assets
  
- . Child support expenses paid
  
- . Health or hospital coverage and premiums
- . Day care needs or providers. BAM, Item 105, pp. 7-8.

**For TLFA only**, the client must report to the specialist any month the work requirement is not fulfilled.

Explain reporting requirements to all clients at application, redetermination and when discussing changes in circumstances. BAM, 105, p. 8.

### **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.

### **LOCAL OFFICE RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **All Programs**

Ensure client rights described in this item are honored and that client responsibilities are explained in understandable terms. Clients are to be treated with dignity and respect by all DHS employees. BAM, Item 105, p. 8.

### **VERIFICATION AND COLLATERAL CONTACTS**

#### **DEPARTMENT POLICY**

#### **All Programs**

**Verification** means documentation or other evidence to establish the accuracy of the client's verbal or written statements.

Obtain verification when:

- . required by policy. BEM items specify which factors and under what circumstances verification is required.
- . required as a local office option. The requirement **must** be applied the same for every client. Local requirements may **not** be imposed for MA, TMA-Plus or AMP without prior approval from central office.
- . information regarding an eligibility factor is unclear, inconsistent, incomplete or contradictory. The questionable information might be from the client or a third party. BAM, Item 130, p. 1.

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

Verification is **not** required:

- . when the client is clearly ineligible, or

- . for excluded income and assets **unless** needed to establish the exclusion. 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.

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.

***Exception:*** Alien information, blindness, disability, incapacity, incapability to declare one's residence and, for FIP only, pregnancy must be verified. Citizenship and identity must be verified for clients claiming U.S. citizenship for applicants and recipients of FIP, SDA and MA. BAM, Item 130, p. 3.

### **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.

### **MA Only**

Send a negative action notice when:

- . the client indicates refusal to provide a verification,  
**or**
- . the time period given has elapsed. BAM,  
Item 130, p. 4.

The department's decision must be upheld. Claimant failed to provide life insurance verification.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that the department has established by the necessary competent, material and substantial evidence on the record that it was acting in compliance with department policy when it determined that the claimant failed to provide verification information and had excess income for FAP benefit eligibility under the circumstances.

Accordingly, the department's decision is AFFIRMED.

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/s/

Landis Y. Lain  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura D. Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: January 25, 2012

Date Mailed: January 25, 2012



**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.

LYL/ds

■ [REDACTED]