

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 2012-30112  
Issue No.: 3008; 5016  
Case No.:   
Hearing Date: March 1, 2012  
County: Wayne (19)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Susan C. Burke

**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 March 1, 2012, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of Department of Human Services (Department) included

**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 type="checkbox"/> State Disability Assistance (SDA)? |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Assistance Program (FAP)? | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Development and Care (CDC)?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Assistance (MA)?                  |   |

Did the Department properly deny Claimant's State Emergency Relief (SER) application?

**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 SDA CDC.
2. It is unknown if Claimant was provided with a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503).

3. On March 1, 2012, the Department  
 denied Claimant's application  
 closed Claimant's case  
 reduced Claimant's benefits  
for failure to submit verification in a timely manner.
4. Claimant also applied for SER for energy in the amount of approximately \$121.00.
5. The Department denied Claimant's SER application.
6. On February 2, 2012, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting the  
 denial of SER application and  closure of FAP.

### **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 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 SER program is established by 2004 PA 344. The SER program is administered pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and by final administrative rules filed with the Secretary of State on October 28, 1993. MAC R 400.7001-400-7049. Department policies are found in the State Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

Clients must cooperate with the local DHS office in obtaining verification for determining initial and ongoing eligibility. BAM 130. The questionable information might be from the client or a third party. *Id.* The Department can use documents, collateral contacts or home calls to verify information. *Id.* The client should be allowed 10 calendar days to provide the verification. If the client cannot provide the verification despite a reasonable effort, the time limit to provide the information should be extended at least once. BAM 130. If the client refuses to provide the information or has not made a reasonable effort within the specified time period, then policy directs that a negative action be issued. BAM 130.

In the present case, it is unknown whether Claimant received a verification checklist from the Department. The Department did not present a verification checklist at the hearing from which to question Claimant as to his receipt of same. It therefore cannot be found that Claimant failed to cooperate with the Department and it cannot be found that the Department properly closed Claimant's FAP case. In addition, the Department denied Claimant's SER application in part because Claimant was not categorically

eligible. However, this conclusion that Claimant was not categorically eligible was based on the erroneous closure of Claimant's FAP case. It cannot be found that the Department was correct in its denial of Claimant's SER application. ERM 204.

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 for FAP.
- denied Claimant's application for SER.
- reduced Claimant's benefits.

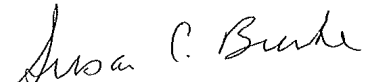
### **DECISION AND ORDER**

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. Initiate reinstatement of Claimant's FAP case, effective March 1, 2012, if Claimant is otherwise eligible for FAP.
2. Issue FAP supplements, March 1, 2012, and ongoing, if Claimant is otherwise eligible for FAP.
3. Reinstatement and reprocess Claimant's SER application and issue a new SER Eligibility Decision Notice.



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Susan C. Burke  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 3/7/12

Date Mailed: 3/7/12

**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 cannot 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.

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

SCB/sm

cc:

