

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 2012-52938  
Issue No.: 2006  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: September 12, 2012  
County: Wayne (76)

**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 following Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on September 12, 2012, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included the claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED]

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

**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. Verification Check lists (VCL) were sent to Claimant on April 12, 2012 with a due date of April 23, 2012
- 3.
4. The Department denied Claimant's application as of April 1, 2012.

5. On April 30, 2012, the Department sent notice of the
- denial of Claimant's application.
  - closure of Claimant's case.
  - reduction of Claimant's benefits.
6. On May 9, 2012, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting the
- denial of claimant's application.
  - closure of Claimant's case.
  - reduction of Claimant's benefits.

### **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 1997 AACS R 400.3101-3131. 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 1997 AACS R 400.3001-3015

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 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 1998-2000 AACS R 400.3151-400.3180.

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 1997 AACS R 400.5001-5015.

The Department denied Claimant's application for failure to comply with the requirements of two VCL's, (Exhibits A and B). Exhibit A requested general financial eligibility information and Exhibit B was a Medical Determination Verification Checklist. Claimant also missed scheduled appointments for a face to face interview for which notice was provided. The Notice of Case Action (Exhibit E) confirms that Claimant's application was denied for failure to verify.

At the hearing, Claimant did not dispute receipt of the appointment notice(s). Claimant testified that he is on parole and as a condition of release he wears a tether. He is not able to leave the home unless his destination has been approved by his parole officer and is on "the list." He was not able to contact his parole office in order to secure permission to attend the appointment(s). In addition, Claimant testified that he did not telephone the Department, but focused on attempts to contact his parole officer.

Claimant did not assert that he attempted to provide any of the documentation requested by the VCLs.

The evidence is uncontested that Claimant did not provide the required information identified on the VCL that would allow the Department to make a determination regarding eligibility for benefits.

The Department's authorization to request verification of information is found in Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 130 (May 1, 2012). Policy governing the scheduling of interviews is found at BAM 115.

In the instant case, Claimant failed to verify the requested information and attend the face to face appointment. Thus, the Department acted properly in denying Claimant's application for benefits.

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.



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

Date Signed: October 17, 2012

Date Mailed: October 17, 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 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.

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

MJB/ctl

cc:

