

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg No.: 2012-53215  
Issue No.: 2009, 4031  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: August 27, 2012  
St. Clair County DHS

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Colleen M. Mamelka

**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 hearing was held in Port Huron, Michigan on Monday, August 27, 2012. The Claimant appeared and testified. The Claimant was represented by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of Legal Services of Eastern Michigan. Participating on behalf of the Department of Human Services ("Department") was [REDACTED].

**ISSUE**

Whether the Department properly determined that the Claimant was not disabled for purposes of the Medical Assistance ("MA-P") benefit program?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. The Claimant submitted an application for public assistance seeking MA-P benefits on August 31, 2011.
2. On March 27, 2012, the Appeals Council upheld the Social Security Administration's determination that the Claimant was not disabled.
3. The Medical Review Team ("MRT") found the Claimant not disabled on May 1, 2012.
4. The Department notified the Claimant of the MRT decision on May 4, 2012.

5. On May 15, 2012, the Department received the Claimant's timely written request for hearing.
6. On July 4, 2012, the State Hearing Review Team ("SHRT") found the Claimant not disabled based on the final determination from the Appeals Council.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Medical Assistance program is established by Subchapter XIX of Chapter 7 of The Public Health & Welfare Act. 42 USC 1397 and is administered by the Department of Human Services pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et. seq.* The Department of Human Services, formerly known as the Family Independence Agency, administers the program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.* and Mich Admin Code, Rules 400.3001-3015. Departmental policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual ("BAM"), the Bridges Eligibility Manual ("BEM"), and the Bridges Reference Manual ("BRM").

The disability standard for both disability related MA and SSI is the same. BEM 271, p. 1 (May 2010). When the SSA determines that a client is not disabled/blind for SSI purposes, the client may appeal that determination at SSA. BEM 260 p. 9 (January 2010). The SSA Appeals Process consists of three steps:

1. Reconsideration (if initial application filed prior to October 1, 1999)
2. Hearing
3. Appeals Council

BEM 260, p. 9 (January 2010). The client has 60 days from the date he receives a denial notice to appeal an SSA action. BEM 261, p. 9 (January 2010); BEM 271, p. 7 (May 2010). An SSA determination becomes final when no further appeals may be made at SSA. BEM 260, p. 3 (January 2010); BEM 271 p. 8 (May 2010). Once an SSA determination that a disability or blindness does not exist becomes final, the MA case must be closed. BEM 260, p. 2-3; BEM 271, p. 8-9 (May 2010)

In the record presented, the SSA found the Claimant not disabled from which the Claimant appealed. On March 27, 2012, the Appeals Council upheld the determination that the Claimant was not disabled. This final determination covered the same period at issue in this case. In light of the foregoing, the SSA decision is binding on the Claimant's MA-P case. In light of the foregoing, the Department's determination is AFFIRMED.

The State Disability Assistance program, which provides financial assistance for disabled persons, was established by 2004 PA 344. The Department administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10 *et seq.* and Mich Admin Code, Rules 400.3151 –

2012-53215/CMM

400.3180. Department policies are found in BAM, BEM, and RFT. A person is considered disabled for SDA purposes if the person has a physical or mental impairment which meets federal SSI disability standards for at least ninety days. Receipt of SSI benefits based on disability or blindness, or the receipt of MA benefits based on disability or blindness automatically qualifies an individual as disabled for purposes of the SDA program.

In this case, the Claimant was found not disabled by the SSA which is binding on the Claimant's MA-P case covering the same period. Based on the foregoing, the Claimant is also found not disabled for purposes of the SDA benefit program based on this same determination from the SSA.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law finds the Claimant not disabled for purposes of the MA-P and SDA benefit programs.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED:

The Department's determination is AFFIRMED.

*Colleen M. Mamelka*

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**Colleen M. Mamelka**  
Administrative Law Judge  
For Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: September 7, 2012

Date Mailed: September 7, 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. (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  
Re consideration/Rehearing Request  
P. O. Box 30639  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

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■ Services of Eastern Michigan  
St. Clair County DHS

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EQAD  
SHRT

C. Mamelka