

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 2012-53521
Issue No.: 3008; 3022
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: June 14, 2012
County: Wayne (31)

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 June 14, 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 submit completed redetermination, 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"/> Adult Medical Program (AMP)? |
| <input checked="" 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. Claimant was was not provided with a redetermination form.
4. Claimant was required to submit the completed redetermination by April 16, 2012.

5. On May 1, 2012, 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. The Department did not send notice of the
 denial of Claimant's application.
 closure of Claimant's case.
 reduction of Claimant's benefits.
7. On May 16, 2012, 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 AACS, 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, a client must complete a redetermination at least every 12 months in order for the Department to determine the client's continued eligibility for benefits. BAM 210. A FAP client must also complete a phone interview. BAM 210. FAP benefits stop at the end of the benefit period unless a redetermination is completed and a new benefit period is certified. BAM 210.

In this case, the Department testified that it sent Claimant a redetermination in connection with his FAP case on March 31, 2012, with an April 16, 2012, due date. The Department did not receive a completed redetermination and closed Claimant's FAP case effective May 1, 2012, based on Claimant's failure to timely submit a completed redetermination.

At the hearing, Claimant explained that because someone had damaged his front door trying to break into his home, he had secured the front door where his mail slot was located closed, limiting his access to mail dropped in the slot. Claimant testified that his regular mail carrier understood that he did not use his front door for mail delivery and delivered his mail to the side door. However, substitute mail carriers were not aware of this situation and would sometimes deliver mail to the front door. Claimant testified that he checked the front door for mail infrequently, usually only if he happened to see that there was mail at the door when he walked past his home.

Claimant acknowledged that he did receive the redetermination form from the Department but that it had been delivered to his front door and he was not aware that it was there until after May 9, 2012, when he checked the front door after he was advised by the Department that his FAP case had closed because he had failed to complete and submit a redetermination. Claimant admitted that, under these circumstances, he had not completed and submitted the redetermination.

While Claimant credibly testified regarding his mail situation, because the redetermination was delivered to Claimant to the address he verified on the record and was not returned to the Department as undeliverable, the Department completed its obligation to send out the redetermination form. BAM 210. Because Claimant did not submit the completed redetermination, the Department acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed Claimant's FAP case for failure to timely submit the completed redetermination. BAM 210.

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.



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

Date Signed: June 18, 2012

Date Mailed: June 18, 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.

2012-53521/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:

