

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 201257448
Issue No.: 2006
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: September 19, 2012
County: Wayne (15)

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 September 19, 2012, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant; [REDACTED], Claimant's friend; and [REDACTED], Claimant's daughter. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], Medical Contact Worker.

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"/> Adult Medical Program (AMP)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Assistance Program (FAP)? | <input type="checkbox"/> State Disability Assistance (SDA)? |
| <input checked="" 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 CDC.
2. Claimant was was not provided with a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503).

3. Claimant was required to submit requested verification by March 26, 2012.
4. On May 21, 2012, the Department
 - denied Claimant's application
 - closed Claimant's case
 - reduced Claimant's benefitsfor failure to submit verification in a timely manner.
5. On May 21, 2012, the Department sent notice of the
 - denial of Claimant's application.
 - closure of Claimant's case.
 - reduction of Claimant's benefits.
6. On June 4, 2012, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting the
 - denial. closure. reduction.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are found in the Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and 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 Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101 through R 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 Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 through R 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 Mich Admin Code, R 400.3151 through R 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 Mich Admin Code, R 400.5001 through R 400.5015.

Additionally, in connection with Claimant's March 13, 2012 MA application, in which Claimant alleged a disability, the Department sent Claimant a March 14, 2012 Verification Checklist (VCL) requesting medical documentation concerning the alleged disability by March 26, 2012. On May 21, 2012, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action denying her MA application on the basis that she had failed to verify requested information.

At the hearing, Claimant credibly testified that she had faxed the completed MA documents prior to the due date at the fax number indicated on the VCL. At the time Claimant faxed the MA verifications, she also submitted documents for an SER application she had filed at the same time as the MA application. Claimant credibly testified that she received confirmations that her faxes had been successfully sent. However, Claimant's worker advised her that she had not received the fax. Claimant then decided to upload all her MA and SER documents on the Department's website. Claimant credibly testified that an icon appeared when the MA documents were being uploaded so she believed that the documents were successfully uploading. Her belief was reinforced by the fact that, when she attempted to upload her SER documents, the site advised her that it was unable to accept the documents. She credibly testified that she believed that she had exceeded the page limit for uploaded documents and that, while the SER documents, which she had attempted to upload after the MA documents, did not go through, the MA documents did. Although the Department testified that a confirmation appears when documents are successfully uploaded onto the website, Claimant credibly testified that she was not familiar with the Department's website and the manner in which it provided confirmations. Because at the time Claimant was concerned about getting her SER application approved, her worker gave her the fax number to the Department's administrative office to fax the SER documents. Claimant credibly testified that, because she believed the MA documents had been successfully uploaded on the computer, she faxed only the SER documents to the new number.

At the hearing, the Department testified that it did not receive any MA documents from Claimant. However, the Department's evidence corroborated Claimant's testimony. The Department worker testified that Claimant's SER documents were received at the administrative office fax number, a different number than that provided on the VCL. Claimant's SER request was approved on April 18, 2012, after she filed a second SER application. The fact that the Department did not deny Claimant's MA application until May 21, 2012, long after the March 26, 2012 due date of the verifications, also supports

Claimant's claim that she and the worker were focused on processing the SER case. Because the facts in this case establish that Claimant had reason to believe that her uploaded MA documents had been successfully submitted to the Department, the Department did not act in accordance with Department policy when it denied Claimant's MA application for failure to verify requested information.

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.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO DO THE FOLLOWING WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Reregister Claimant's March 13, 2012 applicaton;
2. Begin reprocessing the application in accordance with Department policy, including requesting any required verifications;
3. Provide Claimant with MA coverage she is eligible to receive from date coverage is available, pursuant to the March 13, 2012 application;
4. Notify Claimant in writing of its decision.



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

Date Signed: 10/19/2012

Date Mailed: 10/19/2012

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
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request
P. O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

ACE/hw

cc:

