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

IN THE MATTER OF:

Reg. No.:	2012-855
Issue No.:	3019
Case No.: Hearing Date: County:	October 27, 2011 Ingham

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Vicki L. Armstrong

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 October 27, 2011. Claimant personally appeared and provided testimony

ISSUE

Due to a failure to comply with the verification requirements, did the Department properly deny Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) 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 FAP on August 31, 2011.
- 2. Claimant was provided with a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503).
- 3. Claimant was required to submit requested verification by September 12, 2011.
- 4. On September 14, 2011, the Department sent Claimant notice of the denial of Claimant's FAP application, effective August 31, 2011.
- 5. On September 22, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting the closures.

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, R 400.3001 through Rule 400.3015.

The department uses the Verification Checklist, DHS-3503, to tell the client what verification is required, how to obtain it and the due date. The client must obtain the required verification, but the department must assist if they need and request help. BAM 130.

A client is allowed 10 calendar days (or other time limit specified in policy) to provide the verification requested by the department. The department sends a negative action notice when the client indicates refusal to provide a verification, or the time period given has elapsed and the client has not made a reasonable effort to provide it. BAM 130.

In this case, Claimant admitted that she did not return the verification of her husband's loss of employment by the September 12, 2011 due date.

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 denied Claimant's application.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, finds that the Department properly denied Claimant's FAP application.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

<u>/s/</u> Vicki L. Armstrong Administrative Law Judge for Maura D. Corrigan, Director Department of Human Services

Date Signed: <u>10/28/11</u>

Date Mailed: <u>10/28/11</u>

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.



VLA/ds