

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 20129794  
Issue No.: 3055  
Case No.:   
Hearing Date: January 4, 2012  
County: Ingham Counth DHS

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Andrea J. Bradley

**HEARING DECISION FOR INTENTIONAL PROGRAM VIOLATION**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the Department of Human Services' (Department) request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on January 4, 2012 from Detroit, Michigan. The Department was represented by of the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

Participants on behalf of Respondent included: .

Respondent did not appear at the hearing and it was held in Respondent's absence pursuant to 7 CFR 273.16(e), Mich Admin Code R 400.3130(5), or Mich Admin Code R 400.3187(5).

**ISSUES**

1. Did Respondent receive an overissuance (OI) of  
 Family Independence Program (FIP)     Food Assistance Program (FAP)  
benefits that the Department is entitled to recoup?
2. Did Respondent commit an Intentional Program Violation (IPV)?
3. Should Respondent be disqualified from receiving  
 Family Independence Program (FIP)     Food Assistance Program (FAP)

**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 Department's OIG filed a hearing request on October 20, 2011 to establish an OI of benefits received by Respondent as a result of Respondent having received concurrent program benefits and, as such, allegedly committed an IPV.
2. The OIG  has  has not requested that Respondent be disqualified from receiving program benefits.
3. Respondent was a recipient of  FAP  FIP benefits during the period of alleged OI.
4. On the Assistance Application signed by Respondent on June 22, 2010, Respondent reported that he intended to stay in Michigan.
5. Respondent was aware of the responsibility to report changes in her/his residence to the Department.
6. Respondent had no apparent physical or mental impairment that would limit the understanding or ability to fulfill this requirement.
7. Respondent resided outside of the State of Michigan beginning in October of 2010.
8. The Office of Inspector General indicates that the time period they are considering the fraud period is October 1, 2010 through May 1, 2011.
9. During the alleged fraud period, Respondent was issued \$1,600 in  FAP  FIP benefits from the State of Michigan.
10. During the alleged fraud period, Respondent was issued  FAP  FIP benefits from the State of Indiana.
11. The Department  has  has not established that Respondent received concurrent benefits and thus committed an IPV.
12. This was Respondent's  first  second  third IPV.
13. A notice of disqualification hearing was mailed to Respondent at the last known address and  was  was not returned by the US Post Office as undeliverable.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are contained 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.

When a client group receives more benefits than they are entitled to receive, DHS must attempt to recoup the OI. BAM 700.

Suspected IPV means an OI exists for which all three of the following conditions exist:

- The client intentionally failed to report information or intentionally gave incomplete or inaccurate information needed to make a correct benefit determination, and
- The client was clearly and correctly instructed regarding his or her reporting responsibilities, and
- The client has no apparent physical or mental impairment that limits his or her understanding or ability to fulfill their reporting responsibilities.

IPV is suspected when there is clear and convincing evidence that the client has intentionally withheld or misrepresented information for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, increasing or preventing reduction of program benefits or eligibility. BAM 720.

The Department's OIG requests IPV hearings for cases when:

- benefit overissuance are not forwarded to the prosecutor.
- prosecution of welfare fraud is declined by the prosecutor for a reason other than lack of evidence, and
- the total overissuance amount is \$1000 or more, or

- the total overissuance amount is less than \$1000, and
  - the group has a previous Intentional Program Violation, or
  - the alleged IPV involves FAP trafficking, or
  - the alleged fraud involves concurrent receipt of assistance,
  - the alleged fraud is committed by a state/government employee.

A court or hearing decision that finds a client committed IPV disqualifies that client from receiving program benefits. A disqualified recipient remains a member of an active group as long as he lives with them. Other eligible group members may continue to receive benefits. BAM 720.

Clients that commit an IPV are disqualified for a standard disqualification period except when a court orders a different period. Clients are disqualified for periods of one year for the first IPV, two years for the second IPV, lifetime disqualification for the third IPV, and ten years for a concurrent receipt of benefits. BAM 720.

Additionally, The Department policy states that in order to be eligible for program benefits a person must be a Michigan resident. BEM 220. A person is considered a resident while living in Michigan for any purpose other than a vacation, even if there is no intent to remain in the state permanently or indefinitely. BEM 220.


The OIG agent testified regarding the Respondent's intent to commit an Intentional Program Violation. Specifically, the OIG testified that the Respondent acknowledged his duty to notify the Department of any household changes that could affect benefit eligibility on his June 22, 2010 Assistance Application. The evidence shows that the Respondent resided in the State of Indiana and received benefits from the State of ██████ in October of 2010. See Ex. 1, pg. 34. The Respondent did not report this change in residence at the time of the move. Moreover, the Respondent mailed in his redetermination papers to the Department in Michigan in May of 2011 and still did not advise the Department that he no longer resided in the State of Michigan. See Ex. 1, pg. 27- 30. On the redetermination form, the Respondent reported "no change" with respect to his Michigan address, and then stated in the comments section that he "need [sic] to reschedule phone interview. Was out of town. Missed mail." See Ex. 1, pg. 27-30. The Respondent neglected to report that he had relocated to another state and was receiving benefits from that State.

The evidence in this case established that the Respondent had an open and active benefit case in Indiana concurrent with an open and active benefit case in Michigan. Further, the OIG agent presented credible evidence that the Respondent received \$1,600 in program benefits during the period in which Respondent was ineligible based on his residence outside of Michigan. Based on the foregoing, the evidence established that the Respondent was issued an OI in the amount of \$1,600 and committed an IPV.

**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, concludes that:

1. Respondent  did  did not commit an IPV.
  2. Respondent  did  did not receive an OI of program benefits in the amount of \$1,600 from the following program(s)  FAP  FIP.
- The Department is ORDERED to delete the OI and cease any recoupment action.
- The Department is ORDERED to initiate recoupment procedures for the amount of \$1,600 in accordance with Department policy.
- The Department is ORDERED to reduce the OI to \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the period \_\_\_\_\_, and initiate recoupment procedures in accordance with Department policy.
- It is FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent be personally disqualified from participation in the FAP program for 10 years. This disqualification period shall begin immediately as of the date of this Order.

  
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Andrea J. Bradley  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: February 1, 2012

Date Mailed: February 1, 2012

**NOTICE:** The law provides that within 30 days of receipt of the above Decision and Order, the Respondent may appeal it to the circuit court for the county in which he/she lives.

AJB/hw

cc:

