

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No: 201221761  
Issue No: 1005  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: January 26, 2012  
Genesee County DHS

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Corey A. Arendt

**HEARING DECISION**

This matter is before me pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a hearing was held on January 26, 2012. The Claimant and Agency appeared by telephone and provided testimony.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Claimant's Family Independence Program (FIP) application for failing to attend JET orientation?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

I find as material fact, based upon the competent, material and substantial evidence on the whole record:

1. Shortly before November 14, 2011, the Claimant applied for FIP benefits.
2. On November 14, 2011, the Department sent the Claimant a Notice of Case Action and Work Participation Program Appointment Notice. (Department Exhibit A, p 1a, 2a).
3. On November 14, 2011, the Claimant read and signed a Work and/or Self-Sufficiency Rules for Cash Recipients notice. (Department Exhibit A, p. 2b).
4. At no point in time between November 14, 2011 and December 8, 2011 did the Claimant participate in a WF/JET orientation.
5. On December 8, 2011, the Department sent the Claimant a Notice of Case Action. (Department Exhibit A, p. 5a, 5b).
6. On December 19, 2011, the Claimant filed a request for hearing in protest of the December 8, 2011 Notice of Case Action.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The regulations governing the hearing and appeal process for applicants and recipients of public assistance in Michigan are found in the Michigan Administrative Code, MAC R 400.901-400.951. An opportunity for a hearing shall be granted to an applicant who requests a hearing because his claim for assistance is denied. (MAC R 400.903(1)).

The FIP was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-193, 8 USC 601, *et seq.* The Department administers the FIP program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MAC R 400.3101-3131. The FIP program replaced the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program effective October 1, 1996. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

Clients have the right to contest a Department decision affecting eligibility or benefit levels whenever it is believed that the decision is incorrect. The Department will provide an administrative hearing to review the decision and determine the appropriateness of that decision. (BAM 600).

Department policy indicates that clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility with all programs. (BAM 105). This includes completion of the necessary forms. Clients who are able to but refuse to provide necessary information or take a required action are subject to penalties. (BAM 105).

A Work Eligible Individual (WEI), see BEM 228, who fails, without good cause, to participate in employment or self-sufficiency-related activities, must be penalized.

Noncompliance by a WEI while the application is pending results in group ineligibility. (BEM 233A).

As a condition of eligibility, all WEIs and non-WEIs must work or engage in employment and/or self-sufficiency-related activities. Noncompliance of applicants, recipients, or member adds means doing any of the following without good cause:

- . Failing or refusing to:
  - .. Appear and participate with the Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Program or other employment service provider.
  - .. Complete a Family Automated Screening Tool (FAST), as assigned as the first step in the FSSP process.

- .. Develop a Family Self-Sufficiency Plan (FSSP) or a Personal Responsibility Plan and Family Contract (PRPFC).
  - .. Comply with activities assigned to on the Family Self-Sufficiency Plan (FSSP) or PRPFC.
  - .. Appear for a scheduled appointment or meeting related to assigned activities.
  - .. Provide legitimate documentation of work participation.
  - .. Participate in employment and/or self-sufficiency-related activities.
  - .. Accept a job referral.
  - .. Complete a job application.
  - .. Appear for a job interview (see the exception below).
- . Stating orally or in writing a definite intent not to comply with program requirements.
  - . Threatening, physically abusing or otherwise behaving disruptively toward anyone conducting or participating in an employment and/or self-sufficiency-related activity.
  - . Refusing employment support services if the refusal prevents participation in an employment and/or self-sufficiency-related activity. BEM 233A, pp. 1-2.

Good cause is a valid reason for noncompliance with employment and/or self-sufficiency-related activities that are based on factors that are beyond the control of the noncompliant person. A claim of good cause must be verified and documented for member adds and recipients. Document the good cause determination in Bridges and the FSSP under the "Participation and Compliance" tab.

Based on the testimony and the exhibits presented, I find the Claimant clearly understood she had 20 days from November 14, 2011 to participate in a WF/JET orientation. The Claimant in this matter did not follow the instructions as provided as at no time did the Claimant reschedule the WF/JET orientation when she could not attend her scheduled appointment. Based on my findings, I find the Claimant did not have good cause for her nonparticipation.

Accordingly, I find the Department properly denied the Claimant's application for FIP benefits.

