

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 2012-40020  
Issue No.: 2006  
Case No.:   
Hearing Date: June 28, 2012  
County: Wayne (55)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Michael J. Bennane

**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 28, 2012, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included the claimant and . Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included

**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"/> State Disability Assistance (SDA)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Assistance Program (FAP)?      | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Development and Care (CDC)?  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical Assistance (MA)? |   |

**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  SDA  CDC.
2. Claimant was required to submit requested verification by February 21, 2012.

3. On February 29, 2012, the Department
  - denied Claimant's application.
  - closed Claimant's case.
  - reduced Claimant's benefits.
  
4. On February 29, 2012, the Department sent notice of the
  - denial of Claimant's application.
  - closure of Claimant's case.
  - reduction of Claimant's benefits.
  
5. On March 14, 2012, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting the
  - denial of claimant's application.
  - closure of Claimant's case.
  - reduction of Claimant's benefits.

### **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 1997 AACRS R 400.3101-3131. 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 1997 AACRS R 400.3001-3015

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 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 1998-2000 AACRS R 400.3151-400.3180.

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 1997 AACSR 400.5001-5015.

Additionally, the department denied the claimant's MA application for failure to provide documentation requested by the department. At the hearing it became apparent to this Administrative Law Judge that the claimant was either not understanding questions being asked of her, or the department was in danger of not understanding the claimant.

"Interpreters

Record the need for special language accommodations and the applicant's primary spoken and written language on the Household Information screen in Bridges.

A client who needs a bilingual interpreter must be informed that he may choose one of the following:

Arrangements for an interpreter by DHS, including payment of any costs.

Use of his or her own adult interpreter.

If the client does not identify his own interpreter, select one of the following, if available, and inform the client:

DHS staff person with bilingual ability." (BAM 105, p. 10).

At the hearing the department testified that it had not used interpreters with this claimant previously.

In addition, the claimant provided income information to the department but the department found it inadequate.

"The client must obtain required verification, but you must assist if they need and request help. If neither the client nor you can obtain verification despite a reasonable effort, use the best available information. If no evidence is available, use your best judgment." (BAM 130, p. 3).

In the instant case the department failed to use the best information available and failed to provide an interpreter for a claimant that, in the opinion of this Administrative Law Judge, obviously needed one..

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 and process the claimant's MA application of January 13, 2012, utilizing the information supplied by the claimant and providing an interpreter to obtain same.



**Michael J. Bennane**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: July 10, 2012

Date Mailed: July 10, 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

2012-40020/MJB

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

MJB/cl

cc:

