

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 2012-4932
Issue No.: 1021
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: November 17, 2011
County: Wayne (49)

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 November 17, 2011, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant and [REDACTED] Claimant's mother. Participants on behalf of Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED] Family Independence Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close Claimant's case for Family Independence Program (FIP) benefits?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. Claimant was an ongoing recipient of FIP benefits.
2. On October 11, 2011, the Department notified Claimant that Claimant's FIP case would close because Claimant exceeded the lifetime limit on the receipt of FIP assistance.
3. On October 14, 2011, Claimant filed a Request for Hearing, disputing the Department's action on the basis that the Department
 - miscalculated the number of months Claimant had received FIP benefits.
 - improperly determined Claimant's group composition.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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. Department policies are contained in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), and the Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

FIP is not an entitlement. BEM 234. Time limits are essential to establishing the temporary nature of aid as well as communicating the FIP philosophy to support a family's movement to self-sufficiency. BEM 234. BEM 234 restricts the total cumulative months that an individual may receive FIP benefits to a lifetime limit of 48 months for state-funded FIP cases and 60 months for federally-funded FIP cases.

Additionally, at the hearing, the Department clarified that Claimant's FIP benefits were terminated because she had received 99 months of federally-funded FIP benefits and therefore exceeded the 60-month limit for federally-funded FIP cases. Claimant testified that she did not recall receiving 99 months of FIP benefits. However, the Department produced for Claimant's review at the hearing a chart listing each of the months Claimant had received FIP benefits, which exceeded 60 months. Claimant contended that there were certain months that she did not receive FIP benefits because she was sanctioned. The federal count for FIP benefits excludes months in which a client was sanctioned and did not receive FIP benefits. BEM 234. However, Claimant was unable to provide any specificity with regard to the months at issue to challenge the chart produced by the Department and offered no evidence to support her claim. Thus, the Department acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed Claimant's FIP case on the basis that Claimant had exceeded the 60-month federal lifetime limit for FIP 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
when it closed Claimant's FIP case.


Accordingly, the Department's decision is

AFFIRMED
 REVERSED

for the reasons stated above and 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.


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

Date Signed: December 13, 2011

Date Mailed: December 13, 2011

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/ctl

cc: 
Wayne County DHS (49)



A.
File


Elkin