

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 201275399
Issue No.: 3016
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: October 11, 2012
County: SSPC West

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Gary F. Heisler

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 hearing was held on October 11, 2012. Claimant appeared and testified.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) case beginning September 4, 2012?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. On August 27, 2012, Claimant applied for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.
2. On August 28, 2012, Claimant was interviewed and reported she was employed at that time but she would begin [REDACTED] e on September 4, 2012 and would drop her work hours down to 12 or 13 per week.
3. Claimant was sent a Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) which stated she was eligible for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits for the month of August but denied benefits beginning September 4, 2012.
4. On September 4, 2012, Claimant filed a hearing request.

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 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 AACR 400.3001-3015.

At this hearing Claimant confirmed that she was a full time student and that she was not working at all. Department policy provides the following guidance for case workers. The Department's policies are available on the internet through the Department's website.

**BEM 245 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND STUDENT STATUS
DEPARTMENT POLICY
FAP Only**

A person enrolled in a post-secondary education program may be in student status, as defined in this item. A person in student status must meet certain criteria in order to be eligible for assistance.

**STUDENT STATUS
FAP Only**

A person is in student status if he is:

- Age 18 through 49 and
- Enrolled half-time or more in a:
 - Vocational, trade, business, or technical school that normally requires a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate.
 - Regular curriculum at a college or university that offers degree programs **regardless** of whether a diploma is required.

In order for a person in student status to be eligible, they must meet one of the following criteria:

- Receiving FIP.
- Enrolled in an institution of higher education as a result of participation in:
 - A JTPA program.
 - A program under section 236 of the Trade Readjustment Act of 1974 (U. S. C. 2296).
 - Another State or local government employment and training program.
- Physically or mentally unfit for employment.
- Employed for at least 20 hours per week and paid for such employment.

- Self-employed for at least 20 hours per week and earning weekly income at least equivalent to the federal minimum wage multiplied by 20 hours.
- Participating in an on-the-job training program. A person is considered to be participating in an on-the-job training program only during the period of time the person is being trained by the employer.
- Participating in a state or federally-funded work study program (funded in full or in part under Title IV-C of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended) during the regular school year.
- Providing more than half of the physical care of a group member under the age of six.
- Providing more than half of the physical care of a group member age six through eleven and the local office has determined adequate child care is not available to:
 - Enable the person to attend class and work at least 20 hours per week.
 - Participate in a state or federally-financed work study program during the regular school year.
- A single parent enrolled full-time in an institution of higher education who cares for a dependent under age 12. This includes a person who does not live with his or her spouse, who has parental control over a child who does **not** live with his or her natural, adoptive or stepparent.

A detailed analysis of the evidence presented, applicable Department policies, and reasoning for the decision are contained in the recorded record. During the hearing Claimant was informed of the decision and the reasoning behind the decision.

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 properly closed Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) case beginning September 4, 2012.

It is ORDERED that the actions of the Department of Human Services, in this matter, are UPHeld.

/s/ _____
Gary F. Heisler
Administrative Law Judge
For Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: October 15, 2012

Date Mailed: October 15, 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.

The Claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the mailing 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.

GFH/tb

cc:

