

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kent

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Vicki L. Armstrong

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 October 27, 2011. Claimant personally appeared and provided testimony

ISSUE

Due to a failure to comply with the verification requirements, did the Department properly close Claimant's case for the Family Independence Program (FIP) and the Food Assistance Program (FAP)?

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 was receiving FIP and FAP at all times pertinent to this hearing.
2. Claimant was provided with a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503).
3. Claimant was required to submit requested verification by August 12, 2011.
4. On August 31, 2011, the Department sent Claimant notice of the closure of Claimant's FIP and FAP cases, informing Claimant her FIP case would close effective October 1, 2011, and her FAP case would close effective September 1, 2011.

5. On September 7, 2011, Claimant called the department to ask why her cases had been closed.
6. On September 21, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting the closures.

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 1999 AC, R 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, R 400.3001 through Rule 400.3015.

The department uses the Verification Checklist, DHS-3503, to tell the client what verification is required, how to obtain it and the due date. The client must obtain the required verification, but the department must assist if they need and request help. BAM 130.

A client is allowed 10 calendar days (or other time limit specified in policy) to provide the verification requested by the department. The department sends a negative action notice when the client indicates refusal to provide a verification, or the time period given has elapsed and the client has not made a reasonable effort to provide it. BAM 130.

In this case, Claimant testified that she knew she was required to turn in her August paystub before August 12, 2011, but she was unable to find it. She stated that by the time she requested and received a duplicate of the pay stub, her benefits had closed. Claimant did not call the department to request an extension until September 9, 2011, after the closure of her benefits.

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 closed Claimant's case.

