

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 201278085
Issue No.: 2012; 4001
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: December 17, 2012
County: Wayne (17)

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 December 17, 2012, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], Assistance Payment Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly process Claimant's September 4, 2012, application for State Disability Assistance (SDA) and Medical Assistance (MA)?

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 September 4, 2012, Claimant applied for SDA benefits and MA coverage.
2. On September 7, 2012, the Department sent Claimant a Medical Determination Verification Checklist (VCL) requesting medical documentation concerning his alleged disability.
3. On September 10, Claimant filed a hearing request concerning his SDA and MA applications.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are contained in the Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), and Department of Human Services 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 Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101 through R 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 Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 through R 400.3015.

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 of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105.

The Adult Medical Program (AMP) is established by 42 USC 1315, and is administered by the Department pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program, which provides financial assistance for disabled persons, is established by 2004 PA 344. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3151 through R 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 Mich Admin Code, R 400.5001 through R 400.5015.

Additionally, Claimant filed a September 4, 2012, application for SDA and MA benefits. He filed a request for hearing on September 10, 2012, before the Department had taken any action concerning the applications.

MA Application

Once an application is registered, it must be processed in accordance with the applicable standard of promptness. BAM 110 (May 1, 2012), p 18. For MA applications in which disability is an eligibility factor, the Department must approve or deny an MA application within 90 days of the date the Department received an application with minimum required information. BAM 115 (May 1, 2012), pp 12-13. The standard of promptness for processing an MA application based on disability may be extended 60 days from the date of deferral by the Medical Review Team (MRT). BAM 115, p 13. If an application is not processed within the standard of promptness, the Department must document the reason in the case file at 30-day intervals. BAM 115, p 26. In processing an MA application, the Department must consider all MA categories under which the client could qualify and provide coverage under the most beneficial program. BEM 105 (September 1, 2012), p 9; BEM 166 (October 1, 2010), p 1; BEM 174 (January 1, 2012), p 1.

The evidence in this case established that Claimant's medical documentation had been referred to MRT on October 17, 2012, and then MRT deferred Claimant's evaluation while it requested additional medical documentation. Claimant's case was sent back to MRT with the additional medical documentation on November 28, 2012. The Department testified that Claimant's application continued to be processed by the Department as of the hearing date. Under these facts, the Department acted in accordance with Department policy in processing Claimant's MA case. Claimant was advised that, once the Department made a decision on his case, he could request another hearing if he disputed the Department's actions.

SDA Application

The Department must register *all* applications that contain at least the name of the applicant, birth date of the applicant, address of the applicant, and signature of the applicant. BAM 105, p 1; BAM 110, p 16. Once the Department receives an application or filing form with the minimum required information, it must process the application within the standard of promptness, which for SDA applications is 60 days from the registration date. BAM 115 (December 1, 2011), p 13. The standard of promptness may be extended 60 days from the date of deferral by the MRT. BAM 115, p 13.

In this case, the Department testified that it had failed to register Claimant's SDA application. By failing to do so, it did not act in accordance with Department policy.

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 when it continued to process Claimant's MA application.
- did not act properly when it failed to register Claimant's SDA application.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated on the record and above, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED REVERSED AFFIRMED IN PART with respect to processing Claimant's MA application AND REVERSED IN PART with respect to registering Claimant's SDA application.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO DO THE FOLLOWING WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Register Claimant's September 4, 2012 SDA application;
2. Begin processing the application in accordance with Department policy; and
3. Notify Claimant in writing of its decision in accordance with Department policy.


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

Date Signed: 12/19/2012

Date Mailed: 12/19/2012

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.

201278085/ACE

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/hw

cc:

