

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 201316779
Issue No.: 3008
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: January 17, 2013
County: Oakland (02)

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 January 17, 2013, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant and [REDACTED], Claimant's son and Authorized Hearing Representative (AHR). Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED] Assistance Payment Supervisor.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Claimant's application for Food Assistance Program (FAP) 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. On November 15, 2012, Claimant filed an application for FAP benefits.
2. On November 15, 2012, the Department sent Claimant a Verification Checklist (VCL) requesting checking account and rent information by November 26, 2012. The Department also advised Claimant that it needed verification that she was no longer receiving benefits from the State of [REDACTED].

3. On November 15, 2012, the Department sent the [REDACTED] an Out-of-State Inquiry requesting information that Claimant was no longer receiving food assistance benefits from the state of [REDACTED].
4. The Department did not receive the requested verifications.
5. On November 26, 2012, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action notifying her that her FAP application was denied based on her failure to verify, or allow the Department to verify, necessary information.
6. On December 7, 2012, Claimant filed a request for hearing, disputing the Department's action.

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, the Department testified that it denied Claimant's November 15, 2012, FAP application because Claimant failed to verify her checking account and the termination of her benefits from the [REDACTED]. The Department could not rely on the failure of the [REDACTED] to respond to the Out-of-State Inquiry (DHS-3782) to deny Claimant's FAP application, particularly where there was credible evidence that Claimant attempted to contact the California Department of Social Services multiple times without success. See BAM 105 (November 1, 2012), p 5; BAM 130 (May 1, 2012), p 5.

However, the evidence at the hearing also established that the Department sent Claimant a VCL requesting documentation concerning her checking account, but had not received the requested verification as of the hearing date. This verification was required in order for the Department to determine Claimant's asset eligibility for FAP. BEM 400 (November 1, 2012), pp 4, 11, 12, 43. Thus, the Department acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed Claimant's FAP case for failure to provide requested verification concerning the checking account.

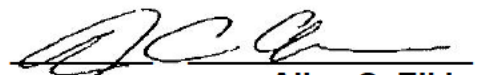
DECISION AND ORDER

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 closed Claimant's FAP case for failure to provide verification of checking account.

did not act properly when

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED REVERSED for the reasons stated on the record and above.



Alice C. Elkin

Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: January 24, 2013

Date Mailed: January 24, 2013

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/hw

cc:

