

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 201323458  
Issue No.: 3009  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: February 7, 2013  
County DHS: MI-CAP/SSPC

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Susanne E. Harris

**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 February 7, 2013, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of Department of Human Services (Department) included Eligibility Specialist (ES), [REDACTED].

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly  deny Claimant's application  close Claimant's case for:

- |                                                                    |                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Independence Program (FIP)?        | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Medical Assistance (AMP)?    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Assistance Program (FAP)? | <input type="checkbox"/> State Disability Assistance (SDA)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Assistance (MA)?                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Development and Care (CDC)?  |

**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  applied for benefits  received benefits for:

- |                                                                    |                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Independence Program (FIP).        | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Medical Assistance (AMP).    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Assistance Program (FAP). | <input type="checkbox"/> State Disability Assistance (SDA). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Assistance (MA).                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Development and Care (CDC).  |

2. On, February 1, 2013, the Department

- denied Claimant's application
- closed Claimant's case

due to a criminal justice disqualification.

3. On December 31, 2012, the Department sent Claimant notice of the:

- denial.
- closure.

4. On January 9, 2013, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting the:

- denial of the application.
- closure of the case.

### **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 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 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 2000 AACRS, R 400.3151 through Rule 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 1999 AC, R 400.5001 through Rule 400.5015.

Additionally, Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 203 (2012) provides that a Claimant shall have a criminal justice disqualification under the circumstances discussed below.

- A person is disqualified for a period of 10 years if found guilty through the Administrative Hearing Process, convicted in court or by signing a repayment and disqualification agreement of having made a fraudulent statement or representation regarding his identity or residence in order to receive multiple FAP benefits simultaneously.
- A fugitive felon is a person who is subject to arrest under an outstanding warrant arising from a felony charge against that person, is subject to arrest under an outstanding warrant for extradition arising from a criminal charge against that person in another jurisdiction, or admits to being a fugitive felon. A fugitive felon is disqualified as a fugitive felon as long as he or she is subject to arrest under an outstanding warrant.
- A person who is violating a condition of probation or parole imposed under a federal or state law is disqualified. The person is disqualified as long as the violation occurs.
- A person who has been convicted of a felony for the use, possession, or distribution of controlled substances is disqualified if:
- Terms of probation or parole are violated and the qualifying conviction occurred after August 22, 1996.

- A person convicted of a felony for the use, possession, or distribution of controlled substances two or more times in separate periods will be permanently disqualified if both offenses occurred after August 22, 1996.
- A person is disqualified from FAP when an administrative hearing decision, a repayment and disqualification agreement or court decision determines FAP benefits were trafficked as a result of:
  1. Fraudulently using, transferring, altering, acquiring, or possessing coupons, authorization cards, or access devices; or
  2. Redeeming or presenting for payment coupons known to be fraudulently obtained or transferred.

The length of the disqualification period depends on the dollar amount of the FAP benefits trafficked. A person is disqualified for life for a FAP trafficking conviction of \$500 or more. The standard IPV disqualification period is applied to FAP trafficking convictions less than \$500. See Disqualification in Bridges Assistance Manual (BAM) 720 (2013).

A person is disqualified for life if convicted in court of trading FAP to acquire firearms, ammunition or explosives.

A person is disqualified if convicted in court of trading FAP in order to acquire illegal drugs. The disqualification period is two years for the first conviction. The second conviction results in a lifetime disqualification.

The ES testified that the Claimant's case closed because the computer system, Bridges, does an automatic synch with the [REDACTED] and this resulted in the discovery of the Claimant's [REDACTED] disqualification. At the time of hearing, the ES testified that being a fugitive [REDACTED] was the only way a Claimant was subject to a [REDACTED] disqualification. That is why the notice sent to the Claimant instructed him to resolve the matter with his local law enforcement office. The Claimant says he went to the [REDACTED] station and they told him he only had [REDACTED]. The Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 203 (2012), p. 2 provides that Bridges will disqualify an individual as a fugitive [REDACTED] as long as he or she is subject to arrest under an outstanding warrant arising from a [REDACTED] charge against that person. However, the policy also provides that there are other ways a Claimant can have a [REDACTED] disqualification as well. The only evidence of the Claimant's criminal justice disqualification in evidence is a computer print out screen from Bridges.

This is found to be insufficient evidence of the Claimant's criminal justice disqualification, as it does not even state why it is that he is disqualified. The evidence is therefore, insufficient to establish that the Department acted in accordance with its policy when taking action to close the Claimant's FAP case.

Based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law the Administrative Law Judge concludes that the Department

properly denied Claimant's application     improperly denied Claimant's application  
 properly closed Claimant's case             improperly closed Claimant's case

for:  AMP             FIP             FAP             MA             SDA             CDC.


**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 not act properly.

Accordingly, the Department's  AMP  FIP  FAP  MA  SDA  CDC decision is  AFFIRMED  **REVERSED** for the reasons stated 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. Initiate action to re-instate the Claimant's FAP benefits back to his case closure date.
2. Initiate action to issue the Claimant any supplements that he may thereafter be due.

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**Susanne E. Harris**  
Administrative Law Judge  
For Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 02/25/2013

Date Mailed: 02/26/2013

**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

SEH/kl

cc:

