

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No: 201332567
Issue No: 3008
Case No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: April 2, 2013
Wayne County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Christopher S. Saunders

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on April 2, 2013. The claimant personally appeared and provided testimony.

ISSUES

Whether the department properly closed the claimant's case for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. The claimant was a recipient of FAP benefits.
2. As of February 1, 2013, the department closed the claimant's FAP case for an alleged failure to complete the required redetermination.
3. On February 21, 2013, the claimant filed a request for hearing, protesting the closure of her FAP benefits.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The regulations governing the hearing and appeal process for applicants and recipients of public assistance in Michigan are found in the Michigan Administrative Code, MAC R 400.901-400.951. An opportunity for a hearing shall be granted to an applicant who requests a hearing because his claim for assistance is denied. MAC R 400.903(1)

Clients have the right to contest a department decision affective eligibility for benefit levels whenever it is believed that the decision is incorrect. BAM 600. The department will provide an administrative hearing to review the decision and determine the appropriateness of that decision. BAM 600.

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 of Human Services (DHS or department) administers the FAP program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MAC R 400.3001-3015. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

In the case at hand, the department representative testified that it appeared that the department should not have closed the claimant's FAP case. The department representative testified that the department was willing to re-determine the claimant's eligibility for FAP benefits back to the date of negative action and, if applicable, issue any past due benefits that may be due and owing. The claimant testified that this course of action would alleviate her need for a hearing.

MCL 24.278(2) provides a disposition may be made of a contested case by stipulation or agreed settlement. In the case at hand, the department representative testified that the department would initiate a redetermination of the claimant's eligibility for FAP benefits back to the date of negative action and if the claimant is found to be otherwise eligible, issue any past due benefits that may be due and owing. The claimant agreed with this course of action. Because both parties agree as to what action should be taken to resolve the issue, this action may be disposed of by stipulation.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the department improperly closed the claimant's case for FAP benefits.

Accordingly, the department's actions are **REVERSED**.

It is HEREBY ORDERED that the department shall allow initiate a redetermination of the claimant's eligibility for FAP benefits as of the date of negative action (February 1, 2013). If the claimant is found to be otherwise eligible, the department shall issue benefits in accordance with policy and, if applicable, issue any past due benefits due and owing that the claimant is otherwise eligible to receive.

/s/
Christopher S. Saunders
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura D. Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: April 4, 2013

Date Mailed: April 5, 2013

NOTICE: Administrative Hearings 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. Administrative Hearings will not order a rehearing or reconsideration on the Department's motion where the final decision cannot be implemented within 60 days of the filing of the original request.

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.

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