

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 2013-41222
Issue No.: 3008
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: May 16, 2013
County: Wayne (15)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jan Leventer

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 May 16, 2013, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included the Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist.

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 May 1, 2013, the Department
 denied Claimant's application closed Claimant's case
due to a determination that she failed to verify loss of employment of a family member.
3. On April 1, 2013, the Department sent
 Claimant Claimant's Authorized Representative (AR)
notice of the denial. closure.
4. On April 10, 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 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, Rule 400.3001 through Rule 400.3015.

Additionally, the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are entered in this case. In this case the Department asserts that Claimant failed to provide verification that her daughter, Autumn Williams, lost her employment at Bakers Footwear.

On March 14, 2013, the Department sent a Verification Checklist requesting "Loss of Employment" information. The form did not specify as to what job or jobs the Department needed this information. Dept. Exh. 1, pp. 17-18.

On April 3, 2013, Claimant submitted a Verification of Employment form to the Department, indicating that Autumn Williams worked at Dialogue Marketing from August 2, 2012-February 14, 2013, and that she was fired and no longer worked there. *Id.*, p. 19.

On May 1, 2013, the Department terminated Claimant's FAP benefits for the reason that she failed to verify her daughter's loss of employment. Although the Department requested "Loss of Employment" information on the Verification Checklist, it failed to specify that it wanted information about a prior employer that Ms. Williams worked for in January-February, 2012, which was Bakers Footwear.

Having reviewed all of the evidence in this case in its entirety, it is found and determined that the Department failed to give Claimant adequate notice of the information it sought from her. Bridges Eligibility Manual (BAM) 105, "Rights and Responsibilities," requires

the Department to determine eligibility, provide benefits and protect client rights. Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 105 (2013). BAM 105 also requires customers to cooperate with all Department requests for information necessary to determine eligibility and provide benefits. *Id.* It is found and determined that a request for "loss of employment" information is not a reasonable request for employment information about jobs from over one year ago. The Claimant had no way of knowing that information about previous jobs was what the Department needed.

It is found and determined that the Department by failing to notify Claimant of the verification it sought, failed to protect Claimant's rights to benefits. The Department is reversed in this case and a remedy shall be provided.

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 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 act properly. 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 SHALL INITIATE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER, THE FOLLOWING:

1. Reinstate Claimant's FAP benefits.
2. Provide retroactive and supplemental FAP benefits to Claimant at the benefit level to which she is entitled.
3. All steps shall be taken in accordance with Department policy and procedure.



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

Date Signed: May 20, 2013

Date Mailed: May 20, 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 affect the substantial rights of the claimant:
 - 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

JL/tm

cc:

[REDACTED]