

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 201325698
Issue No.: 2006
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: May 14, 2013
County: Wayne (19)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: C. Adam Purnell

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 14, 2013 from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED] (Claimant) and [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED] (Eligibility Specialist).

ISSUE

Due to a failure to comply with the verification requirements, did the Department properly deny Claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) application?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. On October 26, 2012, Claimant applied for MA benefits.
2. On November 16, 2012, the Department mailed Claimant a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503) and a Medical Determination Verification Checklist (DHS-3503-MRT).
3. Claimant was required to submit requested verifications by November 26, 2012.
4. On December 27, 2012, the Department mailed Claimant a Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) which denied Claimant's application for failure to submit verifications in a timely manner.
5. On January 10, 2013, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting the denial.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

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

For MA, the client has 10 days to provide requested verifications (unless policy states otherwise). BAM 130. If the client cannot provide the verification despite a reasonable effort, the department worker may extend the time limit up to three times. BAM 130.

Should the client indicate a refusal to provide a verification or, conversely, if the time period given has elapsed and the client has not made a reasonable effort to provide it, the department may send the client a negative action notice. BAM 130.

Generally speaking, the client is obligated to obtain required verification, but the department worker must assist if the client needs and requests help. BAM 130. If neither the client nor the department worker can obtain verification despite a reasonable effort, the department worker must use the best available information. BAM 130. If no evidence is available, the department worker should use his or her best judgment. BAM 130. Exception: Alien information, blindness, disability, incapacity, incapability to declare one's residence and, for FIP only, pregnancy must be verified. BAM 130.

Here, Claimant was required to submit verifications for an alleged medical disability by November 26, 2012. Claimant states that she contacted her Department caseworker prior to the verification due date and made arrangements to drop off some verifications. Claimant did not recall what was submitted. The Department, on the other hand, contends that it never received the requested verifications.

Testimony and other evidence must be weighed and considered according to its reasonableness. *Gardiner v Courtright*, 165 Mich 54, 62; 130 NW 322 (1911); *Dep't of Community Health v Risch*, 274 Mich App 365, 372; 733 NW2d 403 (2007). The weight and credibility of this evidence is generally for the fact-finder to determine. *Dep't of Community Health*, 274 Mich App at 372; *People v Terry*, 224 Mich App 447, 452; 569 NW2d 641 (1997). Moreover, it is for the fact-finder to gauge the demeanor and veracity of the witnesses who appear before him, as best he is able. See, e.g., *Caldwell v Fox*, 394 Mich 401, 407; 231 NW2d 46 (1975); *Zeeland Farm Services, Inc v JBL Enterprises, Inc*, 219 Mich App 190, 195; 555 NW2d 733 (1996).

This Administrative Law Judge has carefully considered and weighed the testimony and other evidence in the record. This Administrative Law Judge finds the Department's evidence to be persuasive and the Department representative(s) testimony is more

credible. Claimant has failed to make a reasonable effort to provide all requested verification(s) within the required time period. Based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence presented during the hearing, this Administrative Law Judge finds that Claimant did not turn in all requested verifications before the due date. Claimant did not specifically request an extension, thus the due date of November 26, 2012 was not changed. Claimant may reapply for assistance at any time.

Based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Administrative Law Judge concludes that the Department properly denied Claimant's application.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, finds that the Department did act properly.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/
C. Adam Purnell
Administrative Law Judge
For Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: May 17, 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.

The Claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the mailing 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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