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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 2013-28461

Issue No.: 3055

Case No.:
Hearing Date: May 8, 2013

County: Genesee County DHS #2

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Landis Y. Lain

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Admini strative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the Department of Human Services (Department) request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on from Detroit, Michigan. The Department was represented by Regulation Agent, of the Office of Inspector General (OIG). Respondent did not appear at the hearing and it was held in Respondent's absence pursuant to 7 CFR 273. 16(e), Mich Admin Code R 400.3130(5), or Mich Admin Code R 400.3178(5).

ISSUES

Whether Respondent committed an Intentional Program Viol ation (IPV) and receive an over-issuance (OI) of Family Independenc e Program (FIP) and Food Ass istance Program (FAP) benefits that the department is entitled to recoup?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

- 1. The Department's OIG filed a hearing request to establish an OI of benefits received by Respondent as a result of Respon dent having received concurrent program benefits in two different states and, as such, allegedly committed an IPV.
- 2. The OIG h as requested that Respondent be disqualified from receiving program benefits.
- 3. Respondent flied applications wit h the department on 12/08/06, 11/28/08, 11/16/09 and 1/13/12, acknowledging that he underst ood his rights and responsibilities to report changes in household circumstances.

- 4. Respondent used his Michigan EBT c ard out of state from No vember 24, 2009 through May 13, 2010.
- 5. Respondent began receiving benefits in Pennsylvania in December 2009, at the same time that he was receiving benefits in Michigan.
- 6. On the Assistance Applications signed by Respondent on 11/28/2008 and 11/16/2009, Respondent reported that she/he intended to stay in Michigan.
- 7. Respondent was aware of the responsibility to report changes in her/his residence to the Department.
- 8. Respondent had no apparent physical or m ental impairment that would limit the understanding or ability to fulfill this requirement.
- 9. Respondent received a FAP ov er-issuance in the amount of \$ for the time period of 12/01/09-4/30/2010.
- 10. Respondent received a FIP over-issuance in the amount of \$ for the time period of 12/01/09-4/30/2010.
- 11. The Department has established that Respondent received concur rent benefits and thus committed an IPV.
- 12. This was Respondent's first IPV.
- 13. A notice of hearing was maile d to Respondent at the la st known address, where he is currently receiving benefit s from the department and was not returned by the US Post Office as undeliverable.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are contained in the Br idges 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 W ork Opportunity Reconc iliation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-193, 42 USC 601, et seq. The Department (formerly k nown as the Family Independence Agency) administers FIP pursuant to MCL 400.10, et seq., and 1999 AC, Rule 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 amend ed, and is implemented by the federal regulations contained in Title 7 of the Code of Feder al Regulations (CFR). The

Department (formerly known as the Fam ily Independence Agency) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and 1999 AC, Rule 400.3001 through Rule 400.3015.

When a client group receives more benefits than they are entitled to receive, DHS must attempt to recoup the OI. BAM 700.

Suspected IPV means an OI exists for which all three of the following conditions exist:

- The client intentionally failed t o report information or intentionally gave incomplete or inaccurate information needed to make a correct benefit determination, and
- The client was clearly and co rrectly instructed regarding his or her reporting responsibilities, and
- The client has no apparent physical or mental impairment that limits his or her understanding or ability to fulfill their reporting responsibilities.

IPV is sus pected when there is clear and convinc ing evidence that the client has intentionally withheld or misr epresented information for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, increasing or preventing reduction of program benefits or eligibility. BAM 720.

The Department's OIG requests IPV hearings for cases when:

- benefit overissuance are not forwarded to the prosecutor.
- prosecution of welfare fraud is declined by the prosecutor for a reason other than lack of evidence, and
- the total overissuance amount is \$1000 or more, or
- the total overissuance amount is less than \$1000, and
 - the group has a previ ous intentional program violation, or
 - the alleged IPV involves FAP trafficking, or
 - the alleged fraud involves c oncurrent receipt of assistance.
 - the alleged fraud is committed by a state/government employee.

A court or hearing decision that finds a client committed IPV di squalifies that client from receiving program benefits. A disqualified recipient r emains a member of an active group as long as he lives with them. Other eligible gr oup members may continue to receive benefits. BAM 720.

Clients who commit an IPV are disqualified for a standard disqualification period except when a court orders a different period, or except when the over-issuance relates to MA.

Refusal to repay will not cause denial of current or future MA if the client is otherwise eligible. BAM 710. Clients are disqualified for periods of one year for the first IPV, two years for the second IPV, lifet ime disqualification for the third IPV, and ten years for a concurrent receipt of benefits. BAM 720.

In the instant case, the department OIG has established that the Respondent received an over is suance of FIP benefits in the amount of \$ for the time period of 12/01/2009-4/30/2010. Respondent also received an over-issuance of FAP benefits in the amount of \$ for the time period of 12/01/09-4/30/10. The department OIG has also established that respondent was received in generated benefit in the State of Michigan and the State of Pennsylvania. The department OIG has established by the necessary competent, substant ial and material evidence on the record that claimant committed an Intentional Program Violation for the Food Assistance Program and the Family Independence Program for which respondent must be disqualified

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, determines that clear and convincing evidence establishes, and for the reasons stated on the record, concludes that:

- 1. Respondent did commit an IPV.
- 2. Respondent did receive an OI of program benefits in the amount of \$ from the Food Assistance Program and \$ from the Family Independence Program.

The Department is ORDERED to initiate recoupment procedures for the amount of for Food Assistance Program and \$ for the Family Independence Program in accordance with Department policy.

It is FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent be personally disqualified from participation in the Food Assistance Pr ogram and the Family Independence Program for 10 year s. This disqualification period shall begin <u>immediately</u> as of the date of this Order.

/s/

Landis Y. Lain
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: May 14, 2013

Date Mailed: May 15, 2013

NOTICE: The law pr ovides that within 30 days of receipt of the above Decision and Order, the Respondent may appeal it to the circuit court fo r the county in which he/she lives.

LYL/las



