

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 201342387
Issue No.: 2026; 3002
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: May 22, 2013
County: Kent

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 May 22, 2013, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of Department of Human Services (Department) included Eligibility Specialist (ES) [REDACTED] and Assistance Payments Manager (APM) [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did the Department properly take action to reduce the Claimant's monthly Food Assistance Program (FAP) allotment and properly determine the Claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) deductible?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. The Claimant was an ongoing recipient of MA with a deductible of \$ [REDACTED] and FAP benefits in the monthly amount of \$ [REDACTED]
2. On April 4, 2013, the Claimant reported to the Department that her [REDACTED] had moved out of her home.
3. On April 4, 2013, the ES took action to update the Claimant's group composition in the Bridges computer system.

4. On April 4, 2013, the Department sent the Claimant a DHS-1605, Notice of Case Action informing the Claimant that her monthly FAP allotment had been reduced to \$ [REDACTED] and that her MA case now had a deductible of \$ [REDACTED].
5. On April 15, 2013, the Department received the Claimant's written hearing request protesting the reduction in her FAP allotment and the increase in her deductible.

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 Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101 through R 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 Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 through R 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 AACS, R 400.3151 through R 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 Mich Admin Code, R 400.5001 through R 400.5015.

In this case, the Claimant did not contest that her husband had moved out and she did not contest the figures the ES used when computing her FAP and MA budgets. The Claimant did question whether or not her [REDACTED] payment could be deducted and whether her water bill could be deducted and the ES testified that the Claimant was afforded the heat and utility standard, which accounted for her water and that a car payment is not an allowable expense on either budget.

Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 554 (2012) addresses allowable expense for FAP budgeting and BEM 541 (2011) addresses allowable expenses for adult MA. Neither policy provides that an automobile expense is permissible as a deduction in the budget. BEM 212 (2012) p. 1 provides that FAP group composition is determined by who lives together and the relationship of those who live together. It is not contested that the Claimant's [REDACTED] no longer lives with her and the Claimant did not contest the amounts budgeted as income and shelter expense. The Claimant was afforded the standard heat and utility deduction. The Administrative Law Judge has examined the budgets and concludes that the Department properly and in accordance with its policy, determined the Claimant's monthly FAP allotment and MA deductible.

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 when taking action to reduce the Claimant's monthly FAP allotment and taking action to increase the Claimant's MA deductible. did not act properly.

Accordingly, the Department's AMP FIP FAP MA SDA CDC decision is AFFIRMED REVERSED.

/s/ _____
Susanne E. Harris
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 5/23/13

Date Mailed: 5/23/13

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/tb

cc:

