

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████
████████████████████
████████████████

Reg. No.: 2013-46595
Issue No.: 3008
Case No.: ██████████
Hearing Date: July 10, 2013
County: Wayne (49)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Susan C. Burke

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 hearing was held on July 10, 2013, in Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant's Authorized Hearing Representative ██████████. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████████, ES.

ISSUE

Due to a failure to comply with the verification requirements, did the Department properly close Claimant's case for the Food Assistance Program (FAP)?

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. Claimant was receiving FAP.
2. The Department closed Claimant's case on February 1, 2013 due to allegedly not returning a redetermination packet.
3. At the hearing, the Department did not present for review a Notice of Redetermination or any other evidence showing what verification the Department requested of Claimant.

4. On May 6, 2013, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting the closure of Claimant's case.

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 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 1997 AACS R 400.3001-3015

Clients must cooperate with the local DHS office in obtaining verification for determining initial and ongoing eligibility. BAM 105; BAM 130 The client should be allowed 10 calendar days to provide the verification. BAM 130 If the client refuses to provide the information or has not made a reasonable effort within the specified time period, then policy directs that a negative action be issued. *Id.* "Tell the client what verification is required, how to obtain it, and the due date.

In the present case, the Department testified that Claimant's redetermination was due back by January 1, 2013. However, the Department did not present for review at the hearing any documentary evidence supporting that the Department issued redetermination paperwork to Claimant. Without such proof, it cannot be determined what verification the Department was requesting of Claimant and when the verification was due. It is noted that Claimant's mother testified that she did mail paperwork to the Department, but again, without proof of what was requested by the Department, it could not be determined whether Claimant did or did not provide the requested verification. It therefore cannot be concluded that Claimant failed to cooperate with the Department.

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 improperly closed Claimant's FAP case.

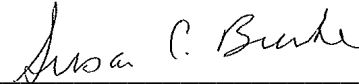
DECISION AND ORDER

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 not act properly.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is REVERSED for the reasons stated on the record.

THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BEGIN THE PROCESS OF THE FOLLOWING STEPS WITHIN TEN DAYS OF THE MAILING OF THIS ORDER:

1. Initiate reinstatement of Claimant's FAP case, effective February 1, 2013.
2. Issue FAP supplements for any missed FAP payments.



Susan C. Burke
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: July 11, 2013

Date Mailed: July 12, 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 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

SCB/tm

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