

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

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

Reg. No.: 2013-48876  
Issue No.: 2009  
Case No.: ██████████  
Hearing Date: October 2, 2013  
County: Jackson-00

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Aaron McClintic

**HEARING DECISION**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge, pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37, upon the Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on October 2, 2013, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of the Claimant included the Claimant, and ██████████. Participants on behalf of the Department included Ed Bell, and, Vicky Hephner.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Claimant's Medical Assistance application?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Claimant applied for MA-P on February 13, 2013.
2. The Medical Review Team denied the application on April 26, 2013.
3. Claimant filed a request for hearing on May 21, 2013, regarding the MA denial.
4. A telephone hearing was held on October 2, 2013.
5. On August 2, 2013, the State Hearing Review Team denied the application because the medical evidence, or record, indicates that the Claimant despite her impairments retains the capacity to perform light work.
6. Claimant is 5' 1" tall and weighs 180 pounds.
7. Claimant is 48 years of age.

8. Claimant's impairments have been medically diagnosed as fibromyalgia, rheumatoid arthritis, and depression.
9. Claimant has the following symptoms: pain, fatigue, headaches, joint swelling, and memory and concentration problems.
10. Claimant completed high school and training as a nurse assistant.
11. Claimant is able to read, write, and perform basic math skills.
12. Claimant is not working. Claimant last worked in 2011 as a patient sitter.
13. Claimant lives with her husband.
14. Claimant testified that she cannot perform some household chores.
15. Claimant takes the following prescribed medications:
  - a. Mirapex
  - b. Ultram
  - c. Naproxen
  - d. Flexeril
  - e. Metroplexate
  - f. Tens unit
16. Claimant testified to the following physical limitations:
  - i. Sitting: 10 minutes
  - ii. Standing: 10 minutes
  - iii. Walking: 25 feet
  - iv. Bend/stoop: difficulty
  - v. Lifting: 3 lbs.
  - vi. Grip/grasp: no limitations
17. Claimant testified to experiencing pain, at a high level of 10, on an everyday basis with some pain, always present, at a low level of 8.
18. In a Medical Needs form dated March 6, 2013, Claimant's treating physician answered yes to the questions, "Can patient work at usual occupation?" and "Can patient work any job?"
19. In a Medical examination report dated March 6, 2013, Claimant was found capable of lifting 20 pounds, frequently, and 25 pounds, occasionally. Claimant was found to be capable of sitting 6 hours in an 8 hour day, and standing at least 2 hours in an 8 hours day. Claimant's conditions were found to be stable.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The regulations governing the hearing and appeal process for applicants and recipients of public assistance in Michigan are found in the Michigan Administrative Code, MAC R 400.901-400.951. An opportunity for a hearing shall be granted to an applicant who requests a hearing because his or her claim for assistance has been denied. MAC R 400.903(1). Clients have the right to contest a Department decision affecting eligibility or benefit levels whenever it is believed that the decision is incorrect. The Department will provide an administrative hearing to review the decision and determine the appropriateness of that decision. BAM 600.

The Medical Assistance (MA-P) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department administers the MA-P program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

Pursuant to Federal Rule 42 CFR 435.540, the Department uses the Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) policy in determining eligibility for disability under the MA-P program. Under SSI, disability is defined as:

...the inability to do any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical, or mental, impairment which can be expected to result in death, or which has lasted, or can be expected to last, for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.... 20 CFR 416.905.

Federal regulations require that the Department use the same operative definition for “disabled” as used for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) under Title XVI of the Social Security Act. 42 CFR 435.540(a).

“Disability” is:

...the inability to do any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical, or mental, impairment which can be expected to result in death, or which has lasted, or can be expected to last, for a continuous period of not less than 12 months ... 20 CFR 416.905.

In determining whether an individual is disabled, 20 CFR 416.920 requires the trier of fact to follow a sequential evaluation process by which current work activity, the severity of the impairment(s), residual functional capacity, and vocational factors (i.e., age, education, and work experience) are assessed in that order. When a determination that an individual is, or is not, disabled can be made at any step in the sequential evaluation, evaluation under a subsequent step is not necessary.

First, the trier of fact must determine if the individual is working and if the work is substantial gainful activity. 20 CFR 416.920(b). In this case, the Claimant is not working. Therefore, the Claimant is not disqualified at this step in the evaluation.

The second step to be determined in considering whether the Claimant is considered disabled is the severity of the impairment. In order to qualify the impairment must be considered severe, which is defined as an impairment which significantly limits an individual's physical or mental ability to perform basic work activities. Examples of these include:

1. Physical functions such as walking, standing, sitting, lifting, pushing, reaching, carrying, or handling;
2. Capacities for seeing, hearing, and speaking;
3. Understanding, carrying out, and remembering, simple instructions;
4. Use of judgment;
5. Responding appropriately to supervision, co-workers, and usual work situations; and
6. Dealing with changes in a routine work setting. 20 CFR 416.921(b).

In this case, the Claimant's medical evidence of record supports a finding that Claimant has significant physical and mental limitations upon Claimant's ability to perform basic work activities such as walking, standing, sitting, lifting, pushing, pulling, reaching, carrying, or handling. Medical evidence has clearly established that the Claimant has an impairment (or combination of impairments) that has more than a minimal effect on the Claimant's work activities. See Social Security Rulings: 85-28, 88-13, and 82-63.

In the third step of the analysis, the trier of fact must determine if the Claimant's impairment (or combination of impairments) is listed in Appendix 1 of Subpart P of 20 CFR, Part 404. This Administrative Law Judge finds that the Claimant's medical record does not support a finding that the Claimant's impairment(s) is a "listed impairment" or equal to a listed impairment. See Appendix 1 of Subpart P of 20 CFR Part 404, Part A. Listings 12.04 and 14.09 were considered.

The person claiming a physical, or mental, disability has the burden to establish it through the use of competent medical evidence from qualified medical sources such as clinical/laboratory findings, diagnosis/prescribed treatment, prognosis for a recovery and/or medical assessment of ability to do work-related activities, or ability to reason and to make appropriate mental adjustments, if a mental disability is being alleged. 20 CFR 416.913. A conclusory statement by a physician, or mental health professional, that an individual is disabled, or blind, is not sufficient without supporting medical evidence to establish disability. 20 CFR 416.927.

The fourth step of the analysis to be considered is whether the Claimant has the ability to perform work previously performed by the Claimant within the past 15 years. The trier of fact must determine whether the impairment(s) presented prevent the Claimant from doing past relevant work. In the present case, the Claimant's past employment was as a patient sitter. Working as a patient sitter, as described by Claimant at hearing, would be considered light work. The Claimant's impairments would not prevent her from doing past relevant work. Therefore Claimant's appeal is denied at step four. Claimant's testimony regarding her limitations and ability to do work related activity was not supported by substantial medical evidence.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that Claimant is NOT medically disabled for the purposes of MA-P.

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



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**Aaron McClintic**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 10/24/2013

Date Mailed: 10/25/2013

**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,
  - the failure of the ALJ to address other relevant issues in the hearing decision.

2013-29118/ATM

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

ATM/pw

cc: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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