

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 20147285  
Issue No.: [REDACTED]  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: November 21, 2013  
County: Macomb

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Kevin Scully

**HEARING DECISION**

Following Claimant's request for a hearing, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 400.37; 7 CFR 273.15 to 273.18; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; 45 CFR 99.1 to 99.33; and 45 CFR 205.10. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on November 21, 2013, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED].

**ISSUE**

Whether the Department of Human Services (Department) properly denied the Claimant's application for Medical Assistance (M.A.) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. The Claimant submitted an application for Medical Assistance (M.A.) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.
2. The Claimant receives monthly Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) in the gross monthly amount of [REDACTED].
3. On September 24, 2013, the Department sent the Claimant a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503) with a due date of October 4, 2013, requesting verification of the value of a bank account.
4. On October 9, 2013, the Department notified the Claimant that it had denied his application for Medical Assistance (M.A.) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.

5. The Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing on October 22, 2013, protesting the denial of Medical Assistance (M.A.) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Food Assistance Program (FAP) [formerly known as the Food Stamp program] is established by the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, 7 USC 2011 to 2036a and is implemented by the federal regulations contained in 7 CFR 271.1 to 285.5. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 to .3015.

All earned and unearned income available to the Claimant is countable. Earned income means income received from another person or organization or from self-employment for duties that were performed for compensation or profit. Unearned income means all income that is not earned, including but not limited to funds received from the Family Independence Program (FIP), State Disability Assistance (SDA), Child Development and Care (CDC), Medicaid (MA), Social Security Benefits (RSDI/SSI), Veterans Administration (VA), Unemployment Compensation Benefits (UCB), Adult Medical Program (AMA), alimony, and child support payments. The amount counted may be less than the amount the client actually receives because the gross amount is used prior to any deductions. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 500 (July 1, 2013).

The Claimant was an applicant for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits as a group of one. The Claimant receives monthly Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) in the gross monthly amount of [REDACTED], an amount the Claimant did not dispute during the hearing. The gross income limit to receive Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits is [REDACTED]. Department of Human Services Reference Table Manual (RFT) 250 (October 1, 2012), p 1.

Therefore, the Department has established that it properly denied the Claimant's request for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by the Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5, and is implemented by 42 CFR 400.200 to 400.59. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10 and MCL 400.105.

Clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility. This includes the completion of necessary forms. Department of Human Services Bridges Assistance Manual (BAM) 105 (March 1, 2013), p 5. Verification means documentation or other evidence to establish the accuracy of the client's verbal or written statements. Department of Human Services Bridges Assistance Manual (BAM) 130 (May 1, 2012), p 1. Verification is usually required at application/redetermination and for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level when it is required by policy, required as a local office option, or information regarding an eligibility factor is unclear, inconsistent, incomplete, or contradictory. BAM 130. The Department uses documents, collateral contacts, or home calls to verify information. BAM 130. A collateral contact is a direct contact with a person, organization, or agency to verify information from the client. BAM 130. When documentation is not available, or clarification is needed, collateral contact may be necessary. BAM 130.

On September 24, 2013, the Department sent the Claimant a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503) with a due date of October 4, 2013. The Department requested verification of the value of a bank account reportedly possessed by the Claimant as part of its routine determination of his eligibility for Medical Assistance (M.A.). Department records indicate that verification of the bank account was not received by the Department.

The Claimant testified that he provided the Department with the information that was requested of him.

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). Moreover, 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). In evaluating the credibility and weight to be given the testimony of a witness, the fact-finder may consider the demeanor of the witness, the reasonableness of the witness's testimony, and the interest, if any, the witness may have in the outcome of the matter. *People v Wade*, 303 Mich 303 (1942), cert den, 318 US 783 (1943).

This Administrative Law Judge finds the Department representative's testimony to be credible that documents concerning the bank account were not received. The Claimant's eligibility to receive Medical Assistance (M.A.) could not be determined without verification of the Claimant's assets, including the value of the bank account.

Based on the evidence and testimony available during the hearing, the Claimant failed to establish that he provided the Department with the information necessary to determine his eligibility to receive Medical Assistance (M.A.). Therefore, the Department has established that it properly denied his application for Medical Assistance (M.A.).

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department acted in accordance with Department policy when it denied the Claimant's application for Medical Assistance (M.A.) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.

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

/s/  
Kevin Scully  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura D. Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 11/25/2013

Date Mailed: 11/25/2013

**NOTICE OF APPEAL:** 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 or Reconsideration was made, within 30 days of the receipt date of the Decision and Order of Reconsideration or Rehearing Decision.

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).

A Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration may be granted when one of the following exists:

- Newly discovered evidence that existed at the time of the original hearing that could affect the outcome of the original hearing decision;
- Misapplication of manual policy or law in the hearing decision which led to a wrong conclusion;
- Typographical, mathematical or other obvious error in the hearing decision that affects the rights of the client;
- Failure of the ALJ to address in the hearing decision relevant issues raised in the hearing request.

The Department, AHR or the claimant must specify all reasons for the request. MAHS will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration. A request must be *received* in MAHS within 30 days of the date the hearing decision is mailed.

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The written request must be faxed to (517) 335-6088 and be labeled as follows:

Attention: MAHS Rehearing/Reconsideration Request

If submitted by mail, the written request must be addressed as follows:

Michigan Administrative Hearings  
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request  
P.O. Box 30639  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

KS/sw

cc:

