

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2013-69004  
Issue No.: 4003  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: November 20, 2013  
County: Wayne DHS (49)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Christian Gardocki

**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 November 20, 2013, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants included the above-named claimant. Participants on behalf of Department of Human Services (DHS) included [REDACTED], Specialist.

**ISSUE**

The issue is whether DHS properly denied Claimant's State Disability Assistance (SDA) application due to an alleged failure by Claimant to submit medical documents.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. On [REDACTED]/13, Claimant applied for SDA benefits.
2. On an unspecified date, DHS requested various medical documents from Claimant concerning a claim of disability.
3. On an unspecified date, Claimant timely submitted medical documents.
4. On [REDACTED]/13, DHS mailed Claimant a Notice of Case Action denying SDA benefits to Claimant due to an alleged failure by Claimant to timely submit medical documents.
5. On [REDACTED]/13, Claimant requested a hearing to dispute the denial of SDA benefits.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3151-.3180. Department policies are contained in the Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) and Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and Department of Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

Claimant requested a hearing to dispute a denial of SDA benefits. It was not disputed that DHS denied SDA benefits based on an alleged failure by Claimant to timely return medical documents to DHS.

For SDA benefits, DHS is to verify disability or the need for a caretaker at application. BEM 261 (7/2013), p. 6. For SDA benefits, DHS is to send a negative action notice when:

- the client indicates refusal to provide a verification, or
- the time period given has elapsed and the client has not made a reasonable effort to provide it.

BAM 130 (7/2013), p. 5.

Claimant testified that she timely submitted proof of her claimed disability to DHS. DHS conceded that Claimant timely submitted medical documents. DHS also conceded that Claimant's SDA benefit application was improperly denied. Accordingly, the SDA application denial was improper.


DHS also stated that Claimant's SDA application was reinstated and that a determination of disability was recently made resulting in another denial of SDA benefits. The below order does not recognize the DHS reinstatement because the reinstatement was not verified. During the hearing, Claimant was advised to request a second hearing concerning the recent denial of SDA benefits if she disputes the application denial.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that DHS improperly denied Claimant's application for SDA benefits. It is ordered that DHS:

- (1) reinstate Claimant's FIP application dated [REDACTED]/13; and
- (2) initiate processing of Claimant's eligibility subject to the finding that Claimant timely submitted requested medical documentation relating to a claim of disability.

The actions taken by DHS are **REVERSED**.

  
Christian Gardocki  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 12/10/2013

Date Mailed: 12/11/2013

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

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.

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

CG/hw

cc:

