

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2014-11245  
Issue No(s): 3004  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: December 10, 2013  
County: Jackson

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Katherine Talbot

**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, telephone hearing was held on December 10, 2013, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED], the Claimant's [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], Family Independence Manager.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly process a change in the Claimant's group for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits?

**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 approved for and is receiving Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.
2. On September 30, 2013, the Claimant informed the Department that her [REDACTED], no longer resided in her [REDACTED].
3. [REDACTED] was a member of the group used to calculate the Claimant's Food Assistance Program benefits.
4. [REDACTED] confirmed that the message was received by the Department on September 30, 2013.

5. [REDACTED] asserted the Department has 10 days to process any change reported by a Claimant. She did not cite policy for this proposition.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Department policies are contained in the Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Department of Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT), and Department of Human Services Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

The Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, PL 104-193, and 42 USC 601 to 679c. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FIP pursuant to MCL 400.10 and 400.57a and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101 to .3131.

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.

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 1008.59. 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.

The Adult Medical Program (AMP) is established by 42 USC 1315 and is administered by the Department pursuant to MCL 400.10.

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.

The Child Development and Care (CDC) program is established by Titles IVA, IVE and XX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 601-619, 670-679c, and 1397-1397m-5; the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990, PL 101-508, 42 USC 9858 to 9858g; and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, PL 104-193. The program is implemented by 45 CFR 98.1-99.33. The Department administers the program pursuant to MCL 400.10 and provides services to adults and children pursuant to MCL 400.14(1) and Mich Admin Code, R 400.5001-.5020.

The State Emergency Relief (SER) program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b. The SER program is administered by the Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) pursuant to MCL 400.10 and by Mich Admin Code, R 400.7001 through R 400.7049.

Direct Support Services (DSS) is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b. The program is administered by the Department pursuant to MCL 400.10 and 400.57a and Mich Admin Code R 400.3603.

The State SSI Payments (SSP) program is established by 20 CFR 416.2001-.2099 and the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1382e. The Department administers the program pursuant to MCL 400.10.

There is no dispute that the Claimant informed the Department her [REDACTED] left and was not living in her [REDACTED] on September 30, 2013. The Claimant asserted she may have reported this as early as September 26, 2013.

The Administrative Law Judge finds that [REDACTED] should not have been considered a member of the group for the Claimant's Food Assistance Program as of October 1, 2013. The Department was aware he was no longer residing in the home as of that date.

[REDACTED] asserted the Department had 10 days to process any change to a group. She stated the change was processed on October 8, 2013. [REDACTED] asserted the Claimant was not entitled to a supplement because the change was not processed prior to the beginning of October 2013.

This Administrative Law Judge finds this assertion is not supported by policy. [REDACTED] did not provide any cite to policy to support her assertion. The change reported by the Claimant (removal of her husband from the group) should have been effective the beginning of October 2013. The change was reported prior to the beginning of October.

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  did not act in accordance with Department policy when it failed to remove the Claimant's [REDACTED], from her FAP group effective October 1, 2013.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

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

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO BEGIN DOING THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Initiate action to remove the Claimant's husband from the Claimant's FAP group effective September 30, 2013.
2. Recalculate the Claimant's FAP entitlement based on the fact that her [REDACTED] was not residing in the home for the month of October 2013.
3. Initiate action to issue the Claimant any supplements she may thereafter be due.

/s/

Katherine Talbot  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 12/17/13

Date Mailed: 12/18/13

**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

KT/tb

cc:

