

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 201317619
Issue No.: 3008
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: January 22, 2013
County: SSPC-WEST

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Kevin Scully

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 January 22, 2013, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Whether the Department of Human Services (Department) properly closed the Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits due to his failure to provide information necessary to determine his eligibility to receive 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 applied for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.
2. On November 5, 2012, the Department sent the Claimant a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503) with a due date of November 15, 2012. The Department requested verification of the Claimant's checking account, savings account, and property taxes.
3. On December 19, 2012, the Department notified the Claimant that his Food Assistance Program (FAP) case would be closed due to his failure to provide information necessary to determine his eligibility to receive benefits.

4. On November 26, 2012, the Department received a document from the Claimant's [REDACTED]
5. The Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing on December 19, 2012, protesting the closure of his 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, and is implemented by the federal regulations contained in Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department of Human Services (DHS or Department), administers the FAP program pursuant to MCL 400.10, et seq., and MAC R 400.3001-3015. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Reference Table Manual (RFT), and the Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

Clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility. This includes the completion of necessary forms. BAM 105. Verification means documentation or other evidence to establish the accuracy of the client's verbal or written statements. BAM 130. 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.

The Claimant applied for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits. On November 5, 2012, the Department sent the Claimant a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503) with a due date of November 15, 2012. The Department requested verification of the Claimant's checking account, savings account, and property taxes. On December 19, 2012, the Department notified the Claimant that his Food Assistance Program (FAP) case would be closed due to his failure to provide information necessary to determine his eligibility to receive benefits.

On November 26, 2012, the Department received a document from the Claimant's bank. The signed document indicates that the Claimant has a checking account and was altered by the Claimant to indicate that he has a [REDACTED] account. The document does not verify the value of this asset.

Based on the evidence and testimony available during the hearing, the Department has established that it properly closed the Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits case due to his failure to provide timely verification of his assets to the Department.

It should be noted that the Department failed to establish that it requested that the Claimant provide verification of irregular self-employment income and a donation/gift from a [REDACTED] member. This hearing decision and order is based on a finding that the Claimant failed to provide sufficient or timely verification of his assets, and not on a failure to provide verification of countable income.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department properly closed the Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits due to his failure to provide information necessary to determine his eligibility to receive benefits.

Accordingly, the Department's Food Assistance Program (FAP) eligibility determination is **AFFIRMED**.

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

Date Signed: January 28, 2013

Date Mailed: January 28, 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 effect the substantial rights of the claimant:

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- 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

KS/tb

cc:

