

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

██████████  
██████████  
██████████

Reg. No. 2013-42568  
Issue No. 1038  
Case No. ██████████  
Hearing Date: May 20, 2013  
County: Wayne (31)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Susan C. Burke

**HEARING DECISION**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge upon Claimant's request for a hearing made pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37, which govern the administrative hearing and appeal process. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on May 20, 2013, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant and Claimant's aunt, ██████████. Participants on behalf of Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████████, JET FIS Worker, and ██████████, PATH Coordinator.

**ISSUE**

Whether the Department properly closed Claimant's case for benefits under the Family Independence Program (FIP) based on Claimant's failure to participate in employment-related activities without good cause.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. Claimant was an ongoing recipient of FIP and was required to participate in employment-related activities.
2. On March 27, 2013, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Noncompliance informing Claimant of a failure to participate in employment-related activities and setting a triage date of April 3, 2013.
3. On March 27, 2013, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action closing Claimant's FIP, effective May 1, 2013, due to failure to participate in employment-related activities without good cause.

4. Claimant attended the triage, where the Department found no good cause for not attending a reengagement meeting scheduled for March 19, 2013.
5. Claimant did not receive notice of the reengagement meeting set for March 19, 2013.
6. On April 16, 2013, Claimant filed a hearing request disputing the Department's action.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

The Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-193, 42 USC 601, *et seq.* The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FIP pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and 1999 AC, Rule 400.3101 through Rule 400.3131. FIP replaced the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program effective October 1, 1996.

The Department requires Work Eligible Individuals (WEI) seeking FIP to participate in employment and self-sufficiency-related activities. BEM 233A. Failing, without good cause, to participate in employment or self-sufficiency-related activities results in the WEI being penalized. *Id.* Good cause is a valid reason for noncompliance that is based on factors that are beyond the control of the noncompliant person. *Id.*

PATH participants will not be terminated from a program without the Department first scheduling a triage meeting with the client to jointly discuss noncompliance and good cause. *Id.* Good cause must be based on the best information available at the triage and must be considered even if the client does not attend the triage. *Id.*

In the present case, On March 27, 2013, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Noncompliance informing Claimant of a failure to participate in employment-related activities and setting a triage date of April 3, 2013. On March 27, 2013, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action closing Claimant's FIP, effective May 1, 2013, due to failure to participate in employment-related activities without good cause. Claimant attended the triage, where the Department found no good cause for not attending a reengagement meeting scheduled for March 19, 2013. Claimant testified credibly that she did not receive notice of the reengagement meeting set for March 19, 2013. In addition, at the hearing, the Department did not present for examination a

2013-42568/SB

notice reengagement letter or notice, so without that proof, and with Claimant's credible testimony that she did not receive the notice, it is found that Claimant had good cause to not participate in the meeting, as she had no notice of the meeting.

Based on the above discussion, I find that Claimant had good cause to not participate in employment-related activities.

Based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, the Administrative Law Judge concludes that the Department  properly closed Claimant's FIP case.  improperly closed Claimant's FIP case.

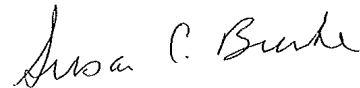
### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, finds that the Department  did act properly.  did not act properly.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is  AFFIRMED  REVERSED for the reasons stated on the record.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO:

1. Remove the sanction from Claimant's case.
2. Initiate reinstatement of Claimant's FIP case, effective May 1, 2013, if Claimant is otherwise eligible for FIP.
3. Issue FIP supplements for any payment Claimant was entitled to receive, in accordance with Department policy.



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Susan C. Burke  
Administrative Law Judge  
For Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: May 23, 2013

2013-42568/SB

Date Mailed: May 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 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:
  - 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

SCB/tm

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