

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2013-56265
Issue No.: 3008
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: August 1, 2013
County: Macomb (20)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Eric Feldman

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 August 1, 2013, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department or DHS) included [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits effective August 1, 2013, ongoing, due to Claimant's failure to comply with the verification requirements?

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 FAP benefits.
2. On April 23, 2013, the Department sent Claimant a Verification Checklist (VCL), which was due back by May 3, 2013.
3. On April 29, 2013, Claimant submitted the required documents via her local DHS drop box.
4. On June 22, 2013, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action notifying her that her FAP benefits would close effective August 1, 2013, ongoing, due to her failure to provide verification of her bank account. Exhibit 1.

5. On July 3, 2013, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting her FAP denial. Exhibit 1.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

☒ The Food Assistance Program (FAP) [formerly known as the Food Stamp (FS) 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 (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 through R 400.3015.

In this case, Claimant was an ongoing recipient of FAP benefits. On April 23, 2013, the Department sent Claimant a Verification Checklist (VCL), which was due back by May 3, 2013. The Department testified that it requested verification of Claimant's vehicle information and bank accounts. The Department testified that it never received the requested verifications. Thus, on June 22, 2013, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Acton notifying her that her FAP benefits would close effective August 1, 2013, ongoing, due to her failure to provide verification of her bank account. Exhibit 1.

Clients must cooperate with the local office in completing the necessary forms for determining initial and ongoing eligibility. BAM 105 (March 2013), p. 5. For FAP cases, the Department allows the client 10 calendar days (or other time limit specified in policy) to provide the verification it requests. BAM 130 (May 2012), p. 5. Also for FAP cases, if 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, then policy directs that a negative action be issued. BAM 130, p. 5.

At the hearing, Claimant testified that she submitted the vehicle information and bank account information in the drop box of her local DHS office and signed the logbook. Based on this information, the Department obtained the logbook and discovered that the Claimant signed the logbook on April 29, 2013. Claimant wrote on the description line "proof."

Based on the foregoing information and evidence, the Department improperly closed Claimant's FAP benefits effective August 1, 2013, ongoing. Claimant credibly testified that she submitted the required verifications by the due date. Moreover, Claimant's testimony was supported by the fact that the logbook was signed by her on April 29, 2013, inferring that she submitted her required documentation.

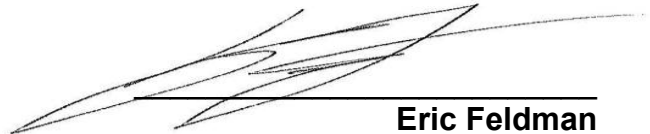
DECISION AND ORDER

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 improperly closed Claimant's FAP benefits effective August 1, 2013, ongoing.

Accordingly, the Department's ☐ AMP ☐ FIP ☒ FAP ☐ MA ☐ SDA ☐ CDC decision is ☐ AFFIRMED ☒ REVERSED for the reasons stated above and on the record.

☒ THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO DO THE FOLLOWING WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Reinstate Claimant's FAP case as of August 1, 2013, ongoing;
2. Begin recalculating the FAP budget for August 1, 2013, ongoing, in accordance with Department policy;
3. Issue supplements to Claimant for any FAP benefits she was eligible to receive but did not from August 1, 2013, ongoing; and
4. Notify Claimant in writing of its FAP decision in accordance with Department policy.



Eric Feldman
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: August 6, 2013

Date Mailed: August 6, 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 affect the substantial rights of the claimant,
- 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

EJF/cl

cc:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]