

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 2013-998  
Issue No.: 3052  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: December 20, 2012  
County: Wayne (82-57)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Jan Leventer

**HEARING DECISION FOR INTENTIONAL PROGRAM VIOLATION**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the Department of Human Services' (Department) request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on December 20, 2012, from Detroit, Michigan, before Administrative Law Judge Michael Bennane. The Department was represented by [REDACTED]

On March 12, 2013, the case was reassigned to Administrative Law Judge Jan Leventer to prepare a Decision and Order.

- Participants on behalf of Respondent included: .
- Respondent did not appear at the hearing and it was held in Respondent's absence pursuant to 7 CFR 273.16(e), Mich Admin Code R 400.3130(5), or Mich Admin Code R 400.3187(5).

**ISSUES**

1. Did Respondent receive an overissuance (OI) of

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Independence Program (FIP) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Assistance Program (FAP) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Disability Assistance (SDA) | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Development and Care (CDC)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Assistance (MA)           |   |

benefits that the Department is entitled to recoup?

2. Did Respondent commit an Intentional Program Violation (IPV)?

3. Should Respondent be disqualified from receiving

- Family Independence Program (FIP)       Food Assistance Program (FAP)  
 State Disability Assistance (SDA)       Child Development and Care (CDC)?

**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 Department's OIG filed a hearing request on November 20, 2012, to establish an OI of benefits received by Respondent as a result of Respondent having allegedly committed an IPV.
2. The OIG  has  has not requested that Respondent be disqualified from receiving program benefits.
3. Respondent was a recipient of  FIP  FAP  SDA  CDC  MA benefits during the period of November 2010 through August 2011.
4. Respondent  was  was not aware of the responsibility to report changes of address within ten days.
5. Respondent had no apparent physical or mental impairment that would limit her understanding or ability to fulfill this requirement.
6. The Department's OIG indicates that the time period they are considering the fraud period is November, 2010-August, 2011..
7. During the alleged fraud period, Respondent was issued \$600.00 in  FIP  FAP  SDA  CDC  MA benefits from the State of Michigan.
8. Respondent was entitled to \$0.00 in  FIP  FAP  SDA  CDC  MA during this time period.
9. Respondent  did  did not receive an OI in the amount of \$600.00 under the  FIP  FAP  SDA  CDC  MA program.
10. The Department  has  has not established that Respondent committed an IPV.
11. This was Respondent's  first  second  third IPV.
12. A notice of hearing was mailed to Respondent at the last known address and  was  was not returned by the US Post Office as undeliverable.

## 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 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 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 1999 AC, Rule 400.3001 through Rule 400.3015.

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program, which provides financial assistance for disabled persons, is established by 2004 PA 344. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and 2000 AACS, Rule 400.3151 through Rule 400.3180.

The Child Development and Care (CDC) program is established by Titles IVA, IVE and XX of the Social Security Act, the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990, and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. The program is implemented by Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 98 and 99. The Department provides services to adults and children pursuant to MCL 400.14(1) and 1999 AC, Rule 400.5001 through Rule 400.5015.

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by the Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105.

When a client group receives more benefits than they are entitled to receive, the Department must attempt to recoup the overissuance (OI). BAM 700 (2013).

Suspected IPV means an OI exists for which all three of the following conditions exist:

- The client intentionally failed to report information or intentionally gave incomplete or inaccurate information needed to make a correct benefit determination, and

- The client was clearly and correctly instructed regarding his or her reporting responsibilities, and
- The client has no apparent physical or mental impairment that limits his or her understanding or ability to fulfill their reporting responsibilities.

IPV is suspected when there is clear and convincing evidence that the client has intentionally withheld or misrepresented information for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, increasing or preventing reduction of program benefits or eligibility. BAM 720 (2013).

The Department's OIG requests IPV hearings for cases when:

- benefit overissuances are not forwarded to the prosecutor,
- prosecution of welfare fraud is declined by the prosecutor for a reason other than lack of evidence, and
- the total overissuance amount is \$1000 or more, or
- the total overissuance amount is less than \$1000, and
  - the group has a previous intentional program violation, or
  - the alleged IPV involves FAP trafficking, or
  - the alleged fraud involves concurrent receipt of assistance, or
  - the alleged fraud is committed by a state/government employee.

A court or hearing decision that finds a client committed an IPV disqualifies that client from receiving certain program benefits. A disqualified recipient remains a member of an active group as long as he lives with them. Other eligible group members may continue to receive benefits. *Id.*

Clients who commit an IPV are disqualified for a standard disqualification period except when a court orders a different period, or except when the OI relates to MA. Refusal to repay will not cause denial of current or future MA if the client is otherwise eligible. BAM 710 (2009). Clients are disqualified for periods of one year for the first IPV, two years for the second IPV, lifetime disqualification for the third IPV, and ten years for a concurrent receipt of benefits. BAM 720.

Additionally, the Department must first prove by clear and convincing evidence that there was an intentional failure to communicate information to the Department for the purpose of obtaining unlawful benefits. Without proof of intentional behavior, or intent, there can be no intentional failure. *Id.* Therefore, the definition of intent, found in the

second required element of IPV, must be considered in order to determine if the first element is fulfilled.

In order for IPV intent to exist, the Respondent must have knowledge of the duties she is required to do. If she does not know of her duties, she cannot intentionally fail to perform them. In this case, the evidence shows that Claimant signed an application and was given an Information Booklet. The Booklet explains the duty to report changes of address within ten days. Knowledge of the duty is proven by the fact that Respondent signed for and accepted the Booklet when she applied. Also, in this case, Respondent at one point reported a change of address. This demonstrates that she knew of the requirement to report changes. Department Exhibit 1, pp. 17, 20.

Returning then to the first issue as to whether there was an intentional failure to report, it is found and determined that Respondent went to the State of South Carolina for three months, returned to Michigan for three months, went back a second time to South Carolina for four months, and then returned to Michigan. It is found and determined that Respondent did not report the three address changes to the Department, even though she was clearly and correctly instructed about her reporting responsibility. These facts establish by clear and convincing evidence that Respondent intentionally failed to report changes of address on three occasions.

It must further be considered whether Respondent failed to report for the purpose of obtaining benefits to which she was not entitled. The duty to report a change of address is broad and encompasses all changes of address, whether temporary or permanent, within ten days. BAM 105 (2013). It is found and determined that Respondent failed to report the changes so that her benefits would continue while she was in another state. If she had reported the changes of address, the Department would at a minimum have to review Respondent's entire situation, including her reasons for moving and her shelter costs, and advise her as to her continued eligibility. Although she knew her responsibility, she failed to inquire as to whether she could leave the state for a specific time period or purpose. This results in an inference by the factfinder in this case, that she intended to obtain benefits to which she was not entitled.

The third and final IPV element is that it must be established that Respondent had no physical or mental impairment that would prevent her from fulfilling her responsibilities. BAM 720. Having reviewed all of the evidence in its entirety, it is found and determined that Respondent was under no physical or mental impairment, and did, in fact, have the mental and physical capacity to fulfill her responsibility. Therefore, having proved all three elements of IPV, the Department in this case has established an IPV by clear and convincing evidence.

In conclusion, having taken into consideration all of the evidence as a whole, it is found and determined that Respondent committed an IPV in the amount of \$600. The Department's request for a finding of IPV is granted.

**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, concludes that:

1. Respondent  did  did not commit an IPV.
2. Respondent  did  did not receive an OI of program benefits in the amount of \$600 from the following program(s)  FIP  FAP  SDA  CDC  MA.

The Department is ORDERED to initiate recoupment procedures for the amount of \$600 in accordance with Department policy.

It is FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent be disqualified from

- FIP  FAP  SDA  CDC for a period of  
 12 months.  24 months.  lifetime.



**Jan Leventer**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: March 21, 2013

Date Mailed: March 21, 2013

**NOTICE:** The law provides that within 30 days of receipt of the above Decision and Order, the Respondent may appeal it to the circuit court for the county in which he/she lives.

JL/pf

cc:

