

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2013-68411
Issue No(s): 2007
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: January 30, 2014
County: Macomb #20

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Michael S. Newell

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, a telephone hearing was held on January 30, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant's son an authorized hearing representative [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Claimant's Medicaid application?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. On August 5, 2013, Claimant applied for Medicaid
2. On September 4, 2013, the Department processed the application.
3. Claimant provided documentation of her alien status.
4. According to the Hearing Summary, on September 4, 2013, the Department denied the application, effective August 1, 2013.
5. On September 10, 2013, the Department received Claimant's hearing request.

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 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.

Additionally, the Department did not meet its burden of proof under BAM 600. The Department did not provide a Notice of Case Action or any verification forms for the hearing. The witnesses disputed whether the worker told Claimant's Representative by phone that the second fax was illegible. The Department bears the burden of proof and relying on a phone conversation rather than a required form or forms for verification as required by BAM 130 is problematic. Notably, BAM 130 page 3 requires the Department to verify alien information. BAM 130 directs the Department to request verification when required by policy (page 1). BAM 130 page 3 provides the method for obtaining verification, which is to use the form specified on page 3, which depends on the benefit type and the verification required. Regardless of the type of form needed, a form is clearly needed to comply with BAM 130, rather than a mere phone call, and the Department did not provide such a form for the hearing. Requesting to view the original documents before closure through a verification form would certainly be reasonable if the documents were illegible, and BAM 130 specifically requires originals for purposes of determining citizenship and identity.

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 failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it denied Claimant's FAP application.

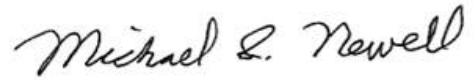
DECISION AND ORDER

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. Issue the proper form to Claimant specified by BAM 130 page 3 to verify any needed information, together with applicable deadlines as required by policy. Such verification may expressly request original documents if necessary.

2. Reinstate the application and redetermine eligibility in accordance with policy.



MICHAEL S. NEWELL
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: February 21, 2014

Date Mailed: February 21, 2014

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

MSN/las

cc:

