

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 201417436  
Issue No.: 2007  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: February 27, 2014  
County: Oakland (03)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** C. Adam Purnell

**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 three-way telephone hearing was held on February 27, 2014 from Lansing, Michigan. Claimant participated in the hearing via telephone. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED] (Eligibility Specialist).

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Claimant's application for Medical Assistance (MA) due to excess assets?

**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 applied for MA on November 21, 2013.
2. On November 26, 2013, the Department mailed Claimant a Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) which denied Claimant's MA application due to excess assets.
3. The Department received Claimant's request for a hearing to challenge the application denial on December 4, 2013.

## 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.

Assets must be considered in determining eligibility for SSI-related MA categories. BEM 400. Assets are defined as cash, any other personal property and real property. BEM 400. Real property is land and objects affixed to the land such as buildings, trees and fences. Condominiums are real property. BEM 400. Personal property is any item subject to ownership that is not real property (examples: currency, savings accounts and vehicles). For SSI-Related MA, the asset limit is **\$2,000** for an asset group of 1 (one) and **\$3,000** for an asset group of 2 (two). BEM 400.

Here, the Department contends that Claimant's MA application was properly denied due to excess assets based on the fair market value (FMV) of one of her husband's vehicles (which as a 2008 Chrysler 300 with a FMV of [REDACTED]). Claimant does not dispute the value of her husband's vehicle, but she objected to the Department's exhibits because she claims that she did not receive the hearing packet and proposed exhibits.

Testimony and other evidence must be weighed and considered according to its reasonableness. *Gardiner v Courtright*, 165 Mich 54, 62; 130 NW 322 (1911); *Dep't of Community Health v Risch*, 274 Mich App 365, 372; 733 NW2d 403 (2007). The weight and credibility of this evidence is generally for the fact-finder to determine. *Dep't of Community Health*, 274 Mich App at 372; *People v Terry*, 224 Mich App 447, 452; 569 NW2d 641 (1997). Moreover, it is for the fact-finder to gauge the demeanor and veracity of the witnesses who appear before him, as best he is able. See, e.g., *Caldwell v Fox*, 394 Mich 401, 407; 231 NW2d 46 (1975); *Zeeland Farm Services, Inc v JBL Enterprises, Inc*, 219 Mich App 190, 195; 555 NW2d 733 (1996).

This Administrative Law Judge has carefully considered and weighed the testimony and other evidence in the record. The Department worker's testimony that the Department mailed Claimant the hearing packet was credible. Thus, this Administrative Law Judge will admit the Department's exhibits into evidence in this matter as they are relevant and necessary to make a determination. Plus, Claimant received the notice of case action and the notice of hearing in this matter. Moreover, Claimant, during the hearing, admitted that the value of her husband's vehicle was [REDACTED], although she stated that they used a home equity loan to pay for the vehicle. Because the FMV of the

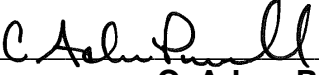
vehicle exceeds the \$3,000.00 asset limit for a SSI-related MA group of 2, the Department properly denied the MA application.

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 acted in accordance with Department policy.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

  
C. Adam Purnell  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: February 28, 2014

Date Mailed: March 3, 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.

The written request must be faxed to (517) 335-6088 and be labeled as follows:

Attention: MAHS Rehearing/Reconsideration Request

201417436/CAP

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

CAP/aca

cc:

