

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 2014-862  
Issue No.: 2009, 4009  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: February 6, 2014  
County: Kent

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Aaron McClintic

**DECISION AND ORDER**

Following Claimant's request for a hearing, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MC L 400.9 and 400.37; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; and 45 CFR 205.10. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on February 6, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED]

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Claimant's Medical Assistance and State Disability Assistance applications?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. Claimant applied for MA-P and SDA on June 6, 2013 with a request for retroactive coverage back to March 2013.
2. The Medical Review Team denied the application on September 5, 2013.
3. Claimant filed a request for hearing September 19, 2013, regarding the MA and SDA denials.
4. A telephone hearing was held on February 6, 2014.
5. On November 4, 2013, the State Hearing Review Team determined that the medical evidence of record does not document a mental/ physical impairment that significantly limits the Claimant's ability to perform basic work activities.
6. Claimant is 5' 11" tall and weighs 180 pounds.

7. Claimant is 34 years of age.
8. Claimant's impairments have been medically diagnosed as degenerative disc disease and diabetes.
9. Claimant has the following symptoms: pain, fatigue.
10. Claimant completed high school and vocational training as a welder.
11. Claimant is able to read, write, and perform basic math skills.
12. Claimant is not working. Claimant last worked full time in June 2012, as a grocery stocker. Claimant previously worked as a welder
13. Claimant lives alone.
14. Claimant testified that he can perform some household chores.
15. Claimant takes the following prescribed medications:
  - a. Simvastatin
  - b. Vicodin
  - c. Humalog
16. Claimant testified to experiencing pain, at a high level of 8-9, on an everyday basis with some pain, always present, at a low level of 4.
17. Claimant testified to the following physical limitations:
  - i. Sitting: 3-4 hours
  - ii. Standing: 1-2 hours
  - iii. Walking: 3-4 miles
  - iv. Bend/stoop: some difficulty
  - v. Lifting: 50 pounds
  - vi. Grip/grasp: no limitations
18. Claimant's most recent MRI completed in October 2010 showed the following under impression: "1. Minimal degenerative changes. 2. L5-S1 disc bulge and tiny right paracentral herniation."

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The regulations governing the hearing and appeal process for applicants and recipients of public assistance in Michigan are found in the Michigan Administrative Code, MAC R 400.901-400.951. An opportunity for a hearing shall be granted to an applicant who requests a hearing because his or her claim for assistance has been denied. MAC R 400.903(1). Clients have the right to contest a Department decision affecting eligibility

or benefit levels whenever it is believed that the decision is incorrect. The Department will provide an administrative hearing to review the decision and determine the appropriateness of that decision. BAM 600.

The Medical Assistance (MA-P) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department administers the MA-P program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

Pursuant to Federal Rule 42 CFR 435.540, the Department uses the Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) policy in determining eligibility for disability under the MA-P program. Under SSI, disability is defined as:

...the inability to do any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.... 20 CFR 416.905.

Federal regulations require that the Department use the same operative definition for "disabled" as used for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) under Title XVI of the Social Security Act. 42 CFR 435.540(a).

**"Disability" is:**

**...the inability to do any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months ... 20 CFR 416.905.**

In determining whether an individual is disabled, 20 CFR 416.920 requires the trier of fact to follow a sequential evaluation process by which current work activity, the severity of the impairment(s), residual functional capacity, and vocational factors (i.e., age, education, and work experience) are assessed in that order. When a determination that an individual is or is not disabled can be made at any step in the sequential evaluation, evaluation under a subsequent step is not necessary.

First, the trier of fact must determine if the individual is working and if the work is substantial gainful activity. 20 CFR 416.920(b). In this case, the Claimant is not working, therefore, the Claimant is not disqualified at this step in the evaluation.

The second step to be determined in considering whether the Claimant is considered disabled is the severity of the impairment. In order to qualify the impairment must be considered severe which is defined as an impairment which significantly limits an individual's physical, or mental, ability to perform basic work activities. Examples of these include:

1. Physical functions such as walking, standing, sitting, lifting, pushing, reaching, carrying, or handling;
2. Capacities for seeing, hearing, and speaking;
3. Understanding, carrying out, and remembering simple instructions;
4. Use of judgment;
5. Responding appropriately to supervision, co-workers, and usual work situations; and
6. Dealing with changes in a routine work setting. 20 CFR 416.921(b).

In the third step of the analysis, the trier of fact must determine if the Claimant's impairment (or combination of impairments) is listed in Appendix 1 of Subpart P of 20 CFR, Part 404. This Administrative Law Judge finds that the Claimant's medical record does not support a finding that the Claimant's impairment(s) is a "listed impairment" or equal to a listed impairment. See Appendix 1 of Subpart P of 20 CFR Part 404, Part A. Listings 1.04 and 9.00 were considered.


The person claiming a physical, or mental, disability has the burden to establish it through the use of competent medical evidence from qualified medical sources such as clinical/laboratory findings, diagnosis/prescribed treatment, prognosis for a recovery and/or medical assessment of ability to do work-related activities, or ability to reason and to make appropriate mental adjustments, if a mental disability is being alleged. 20 CFR 416.913. A conclusory statement by a physician, or mental health professional, that an individual is disabled, or blind, is not sufficient without supporting medical evidence to establish disability. 20 CFR 416.927.

The fourth step of the analysis to be considered is whether the Claimant has the ability to perform work previously performed by the Claimant within the past 15 years. The trier of fact must determine whether the impairment(s) presented prevent the Claimant from doing past relevant work. In the present case, the Claimant's past employment was as a grocery store stocker. Working as a grocery stocker, as described by Claimant at hearing, would be considered medium work. The Claimant's impairments would not prevent Claimant from doing past relevant work. Claimant testified at hearing that he can walk 3-4 miles and lift 50 pounds.

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that Claimant is not medically disabled for the purposes of MA-P and SDA eligibility.

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

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Administrative  
for  
Department

  
**Aaron McClintic**  
Law Judge  
Maura Corrigan, Director  
of Human Services

Date Signed: February 27, 2014

Date Mailed: February 27, 2014

**NOTICE OF APP EAL:** 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

AM/las

cc:

