

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2014-17899  
Issue No.: 2001  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: March 10, 2014  
County: Macomb (50-12)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Jonathan W. Owens

**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; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; and 45 CFR 205.10. After due notice, an in-person hearing was held on March 10, 2014, from Clinton Township, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED] Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED]

**ISSUE**

Whether the Department properly processed Claimant's request for Medical Assistance (MA) program benefits?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. On September 4, 2013, an application for MA benefits was submitted to the Department.
2. On September 20, 2013, a request for verification was issued with a due date of September 30, 2013.
3. Claimant's representative requested and received three extensions and the last extension for the verifications expired on October 30, 2013.
4. On October 21, 2013, the Department denied Claimant's application for failure to return verifications.

5. On December 17, 2013, a hearing request was filed to protest the denial of Claimant's application.

### **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.

In the instant case, an application for benefits was submitted on September 4, 2013. The Department requested verifications. The Department, upon requests from Claimant's representative, granted three extensions. The last extension granted by the Department was due to expire on October 30, 2013. On October 21, 2013, the Department issued a notice of case action denying Claimant's application.

The above facts are not in dispute. The Department acknowledged a notice of case action was issued prematurely. However, the Department believed Claimant and her representative still failed to supply the requested verifications by October 30, 2013. Claimant's representative acknowledged the verifications had not been submitted prior to October 30, 2013, but testified they had received the application denial prior to the October 30, 2013, deadline for submitting the requested documents.

According to BAM 130, p. 6 (July 2013), the Department is to send a negative action notice when:

1. The client indicates refusal to provide a verification, **or**
2. The time period given has elapsed and the client has **not** made a reasonable effort to provide it.

After reviewing the evidence presented, this Administrative Law Judge finds the Department failed to allow the time period given to submit verifications to expire prior to issuing a negative action notice.

### **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. Initiate registering of Claimant's application dated September 4, 2013;
2. Process Claimant's application in accordance with Department policy;
3. Issue a notice of case action.



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**Jonathan W. Owens**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: March 19, 2014

Date Mailed: March 19, 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

If submitted by mail, the written request must be addressed as follows:

2014-17899/JWO

Michigan Administrative Hearings  
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request  
P.O. Box 30639  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

JWO/pf

cc: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]