

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 201430605  
Issue No.: 1008  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: March 31, 2014  
County: Wayne (43)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Alice C. Elkin

**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 March 31, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], JET Case Manager.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly close Claimant's Family Independence Program (FIP) for failure to participate in employment-related activities without good cause?

**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 was an ongoing recipient of FIP benefits.
2. On January 24, 2014, the Department sent Claimant a PATH Appointment Notice to a Revere Street address requiring Claimant to attend a PATH orientation on February 3, 2014.
3. Claimant did not attend the February 3, 2014 PATH appointment.
4. On February 12, 2014, the Department sent to Claimant at the Revere Street address (i) a Notice of Noncompliance notifying her of her noncompliance and scheduling a triage on February 20, 2014, and (ii) a Notice of Case Action notifying

her that her FIP case would close effective March 1, 2014, because she had failed, without good cause, to comply with employment-related activities.

5. Claimant did not attend the triage.
6. The Department closed Claimant's FIP case on March 1, 2014.
7. On February 26, 2014, Claimant filed a request for hearing disputing the Department's actions.

### **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 Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, PL 104-193, and 42 USC 601 to 679c. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FIP pursuant to MCL 400.10 and 400.57a and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101 to .3131.

Additionally, the Department closed Claimant's FIP case after concluding that she had failed, without good cause, to attend the February 3, 2014 PATH orientation. At the hearing, the Department established that the January 24, 2014 PATH Appointment Notice notifying Claimant of the orientation, as well as the subsequent Notice of Noncompliance notifying her of the noncompliance and scheduling the triage, was sent to Claimant's old address. The Department acknowledged that it had failed to promptly update Claimant's address and, as a result, sent the notices to the wrong address. Because the Department failed to properly notify Claimant of her PATH appointment and the triage, Claimant established good cause for her failure to attend both meetings. BEM 233 (July 2013), p. 4.

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 did not act in accordance with Department policy when it closed Claimant's FIP case.

### **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. Remove any FIP employment-related sanction entered on or about March 1, 2014, from Claimant's record;
2. Reinstate Claimant's FIP case effective March 1, 2014; and
3. Issue supplements to Claimant for any FIP benefits she was eligible to receive but did not from March 1, 2014, ongoing.



**Alice C. Elkin**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: April 7, 2014

Date Mailed: April 7, 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:

2014-30605/ACE

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

ACE/tif

cc:

