

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 2014-28034  
Issue No(s): 2009; 4000  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: May 1, 2014  
County: Wayne (76)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Susan C. Burke

**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, a telephone hearing was held on May 1, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist.

**ISSUE**

Whether the Department properly determined that Claimant was not disabled for purposes of the Medical Assistance (MA) and/or State Disability Assistance (SDA) benefit programs.

**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 submitted an application for public assistance seeking MA on September 30, 2013.
2. On December 3, 2013, the Medical Review Team (MRT) determined that Claimant was not disabled.
3. The Department notified Claimant of the MRT determination on January 27, 2014.
4. On February 13, 2014, the Department received Claimant's timely written request for hearing regarding MA and SDA.

5. On March 17, 2014, the State Hearing Review Team found Claimant not disabled.
6. At the time of the hearing, the Claimant was [REDACTED] years old with a birth date of [REDACTED].
7. Claimant has an 11<sup>th</sup> grade education.
8. Claimant is currently working in home childcare, receiving \$679.00 to \$700.00 biweekly.
9. Claimant suffers from pancreatitis, hypertension, and ankle and foot pain.
10. During the hearing, Claimant stated she no longer requested a hearing regarding SDA.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Medical Assistance program is established by Subchapter XIX of Chapter 7 of The Public Health & Welfare Act, 42 USC 1397, and is administered by the Department of Human Services, formerly known as the Family Independence Agency, 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 Bridges Reference Tables (“RFT”).

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), statutory listings of medical impairments, 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. (SGA) 20 CFR 416.924(b).

In this case, Claimant applied for MA on September 30, 2013. Claimant testified credibly that since 2010 she had been working, and continues to work, as a child day-care provider in her home, earning \$679.00 to \$700.00 biweekly.

20 CFR 416.971 states in part, "The work, without regard to legality, that you have done during any period in which you believe you are disabled may show that you are able to work at the substantial gainful activity level. If you are able to engage in substantial gainful activity, we will find that you are not disabled." 20 CFR 972 (a) states that substantial work activity is "work activity that involves doing significant physical or mental activities." A person who earned more than \$1,040.00 (non-blind) per month in 2013 and \$1,070.00 per month in 2014 is considered to be engaged in substantial gainful activity. 20 CFR 416.974.

As Claimant was performing substantial gainful activity, a finding of not disabled is directed.

The Administrative Law Judge would note that this finding does not belittle the seriousness of Claimant's impairment. The rules only examine whether a person claiming disability is exceeding the substantial gainful activity threshold. This is a bright line rule; even if Claimant were a penny above this limit, a finding of not disabled would be directed.

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 Claimant not disabled for purposes of the MA benefit program.

As to SDA, Claimant stated at the hearing that she no longer requested a hearing regarding the SDA request for hearing.

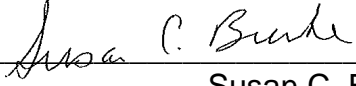
### **DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's MA determination is AFFIRMED.

It is further ORDERED that Claimant's request for hearing regarding SDA is

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DISMISSED pursuant to Claimant's withdrawal of the hearing request during the hearing.

  
Susan C. Burke  
Administrative Law Judge  
For Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 5/12/2014

Date Mailed: 5/12/2014

**NOTICE OF APPEAL:** 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).

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.

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:

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

SCB/hw

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cc:

