

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.:
Issue No(s):
Case No.:
Hearing Date:
County:

[REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Darryl T. Johnson

**HEARING DECISION FOR CONCURRENT BENEFITS
INTENTIONAL PROGRAM VIOLATION**

Upon the request for a hearing by the Department of Human Services (Department), this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and in accordance with Titles 7, 42 and 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations, particularly 7 CFR 273.16, and with Mich Admin Code, R 400.3130 and R 400.3178. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on [REDACTED] from Lansing, Michigan. The Department was represented by [REDACTED], Regulation Agent of the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

Respondent did not appear at the hearing and it was held in Respondent's absence pursuant to 7 CFR 273.16(e), Mich Admin Code R 400.3130(5), or Mich Admin Code R 400.3178(5).

ISSUES

1. Did Respondent receive an overissuance (OI) of Family Independence Program (FIP), Food Assistance Program (FAP), Medical Assistance Program (MA) and Child Development Care (CDC) benefits that the Department is entitled to recoup?
2. Did Respondent, by clear and convincing evidence, commit an Intentional Program Violation (IPV)?
3. Should Respondent be disqualified from receiving Family Independence Program (FIP) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. The Department's OIG filed a hearing request on [REDACTED] to establish an OI of benefits received by Respondent as a result of Respondent having received concurrent program benefits and, as such, allegedly committed an IPV.
2. The OIG has requested that Respondent be disqualified from receiving program benefits.
3. Respondent was a recipient of FAP, FIP, CDC and MA benefits issued by the Department.
4. Respondent's spouse, Gayle Densmore, was also a recipient of FAP, FIP, CDC and MA benefits issued by the Department.
5. On the Assistance Application signed by Respondent on [REDACTED], Respondent reported that she intended to stay in Michigan.
6. Respondent was aware of the responsibility to report changes in her residence to the Department.
7. Respondent had no apparent physical or mental impairment that would limit her understanding or ability to fulfill this requirement.
8. Respondent began using FAP benefits outside of the State of Michigan beginning in [REDACTED].
9. During the month of [REDACTED] Claimant was receiving FAP in Michigan for herself and her spouse while at the same time her spouse was receiving FAP in Tennessee.
10. The Department's OIG indicates that the time periods they are considering the fraud period, and the corresponding alleged fraud amount, are:
 - a. MA – [REDACTED];
 - b. CDC – [REDACTED];
 - c. FIP – [REDACTED];
 - d. FAP – [REDACTED].
11. This was Respondent's first alleged IPV.
12. A notice of hearing was mailed to Respondent at the last known address and was not returned by the US Post Office as undeliverable.

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), and Department of Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT). Prior to [REDACTED], Department policies were contained in the Department of Human Services Program Administrative Manuals (PAM), Department of Human Services Program Eligibility Manual (PEM), and Department of Human Services Reference Schedules Manual (RFS).

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.

The Food Assistance Program (FAP) [formerly known as the Food Stamp program] is established by the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, 7 USC 2011 to 2036a and is implemented by the federal regulations contained in 7 CFR 271.1 to 285.5. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 to .3015.

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.

The Child Development and Care (CDC) program is established by Titles IVA, IVE and XX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 601-619, 670-679c, and 1397-1397m-5; the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990, PL 101-508, 42 USC 9858 to 9858q; and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, PL 104-193. The program is implemented by 45 CFR 98.1-99.33. The Department administers the program pursuant to MCL 400.10 and provides services to adults and children pursuant to MCL 400.14(1) and Mich Admin Code, R 400.5001-.5020.

The Department's OIG requests IPV hearings for the following cases:

- FAP trafficking OIs that are not forwarded to the prosecutor,
- Prosecution of welfare fraud or FAP trafficking is declined by the prosecutor for a reason other than lack of evidence, **and**
 - The total OI amount for the FIP, SDA, CDC, MA and FAP programs is \$1000 or more, **or**
 - The total OI amount is less than \$1000, **and**

- The group has a previous IPV, **or**
- The alleged IPV involves FAP trafficking, **or**
- The alleged fraud involves concurrent receipt of assistance (see BEM 222), **or**
- The alleged fraud is committed by a state/government employee.

BAM 720 (7/1/13), p. 12.

Intentional Program Violation

Suspected IPV means an OI exists for which all three of the following conditions exist:

- The client **intentionally** failed to report information **or intentionally** gave incomplete or inaccurate information needed to make a correct benefit determination, **and**
- The client was clearly and correctly instructed regarding his or her reporting responsibilities, **and**
- The client has no apparent physical or mental impairment that limits his or her understanding or ability to fulfill reporting responsibilities.

BAM 700 (7/1/13), p. 6; BAM 720, p. 1.

An IPV requires that the Department establish by clear and convincing evidence that the client has intentionally withheld or misrepresented information for the **purpose** of establishing, maintaining, increasing or preventing reduction of program benefits or eligibility. BAM 720, p. 1 (emphasis in original); see also 7 CFR 273(e)(6). Clear and convincing evidence is evidence sufficient to result in a clear and firm belief that the proposition is true. See M Civ JI 8.01.

In this case, Claimant and her spouse completed and signed an application for benefits (signatures on Exhibit 1 Page 47) in which they both acknowledged that they had to provide accurate information to the Department. They did not report that the spouse was receiving benefits in Tennessee during [REDACTED]. They did not report that they were no longer residing in Michigan, even though they exclusively used their benefits outside of Michigan from [REDACTED] through [REDACTED]. (Exhibit 1 Pages 55-60.)

The Department alleged that Claimant improperly received CDC benefits from [REDACTED] through [REDACTED]. The Department did not provide any evidence to substantiate that Claimant was outside of the state for that period, except from [REDACTED]. Evidence was provided that Claimant received CDC benefits during that period (Exhibit 1 Pages 66-67) but the last payment covered the period of [REDACTED]. Consequently, the evidence supports a finding that Claimant received CDC while she was still in Michigan but not after she left the state.

The evidence is persuasive that Claimant received the following benefits for which she was not eligible:

- a. MA – [REDACTED]
- b. FIP – [REDACTED]
- c. FAP – [REDACTED]

Disqualification

A court or hearing decision that finds a client committed IPV disqualifies that client from receiving program benefits. BAM 720, p. 15. A disqualified recipient remains a member of an active group as long as he lives with them, and other eligible group members may continue to receive benefits. BAM 720, p. 15.

Clients who commit an IPV are disqualified for a standard disqualification period except when a court orders a different period, or except when the OI relates to MA. BAM 720, p. 13. Refusal to repay will not cause denial of current or future MA if the client is otherwise eligible. BAM 710 (7/1/13), p. 2. Clients are disqualified for periods of one year for the first IPV, two years for the second IPV, lifetime disqualification for the third IPV, and ten years for a FAP concurrent receipt of benefits. BAM 720, p. 16.

In this case, the Department has provided sufficient evidence to support a finding that Claimant has committed an IPV and is to be disqualified. This is Claimant's first IPV and the Department has requested a 12 month disqualification for FIP and FAP. That request is supported by the evidence and will be imposed.

Overissuance

When a client group receives more benefits than they are entitled to receive, the Department must attempt to recoup the OI. BAM 700 (July 2013), p. 1.

In this case, Claimant was overissued \$ [REDACTED] in MA, \$ [REDACTED] in FIP, and \$ [REDACTED] in FAP. The Department is to attempt to recoup the OI. The Department has not established an OI in the CDC program.

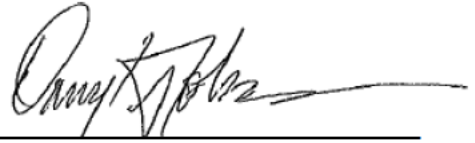
DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, concludes that:

- 1. The Department has established by clear and convincing evidence that Respondent did commit an intentional program violation (IPV).
- 2. Respondent did receive an OI of program benefits in the amount of \$ [REDACTED] from the following programs: FAP, FIP and MA.
- 3. Respondent did not receive an OI of CDC program benefits.

The Department is ORDERED to initiate recoupment procedures for the amount of \$ [REDACTED] in accordance with Department policy.

It is FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent be disqualified from FIP and FAP for 12 months.



Darryl T. Johnson
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: May 14, 2014

Date Mailed: May 15, 2014

NOTICE: The law provides that within 30 days of receipt of the above Decision and Order, the Respondent may appeal it to the circuit court for the county in which he/she lives.

DTJ/nr

cc:

[REDACTED]