

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 14-004674  
Issue No.: 2002  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: August 20, 2014  
County: Clare

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Darryl T. Johnson

**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 August 20, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included Assistance Payments Supervisor [REDACTED] and Eligibility Specialist [REDACTED]. Student Intern [REDACTED] observed from the ALJ's office with the consent of the other participants.

**ISSUE**

Due to a failure to comply with the verification requirements, did the Department properly deny Claimant's application for Medical Assistance (MA) – the Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP)?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. Claimant applied for HMP benefits.
2. Claimant was required to submit requested verification by April 25, 2014.
3. On June 3, 2014, the Department denied Claimant's application and sent Claimant notice of its action.
5. On June 12, 2014, the Department received Claimant's hearing request.

## 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).

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5; 42 USC 1315; the Affordable Care Act of 2010, the collective term for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152; and 42 CFR 430.10-.25. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

The Department denied Claimant's application because she did not timely respond to a Wage Match Client Notice (Exhibit 1 Page 2) by the May 27, 2014, due date.

"Clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility. This includes completion of necessary forms; see Refusal to Cooperate Penalties in this item. Clients must completely and truthfully answer all questions on forms and in interviews." BAM 105.

Per BAM 130, at page 6, says:

Verifications are considered to be timely if received by the date they are due. For electronically transmitted verifications (fax, email or Mi Bridges document upload), the date of the transmission is the receipt date. Verifications that are submitted after the close of regular business hours through the drop box or by delivery of a DHS representative are considered to be received the next business day.

Send a negative action notice when:

The client indicates refusal to provide a verification, **or**

The time period given has elapsed and the client has **not** made a reasonable effort to provide it.

The issue is whether the Claimant provided timely verification in response to the request. The evidence is persuasive that the form was mailed to the Claimant at her address of record. The evidence also establishes that the Claimant did not fully respond or make a reasonable effort to respond by the deadline.

The Department used the address that the Claimant provided – and which she verified at the hearing. The Claimant has failed to rebut the presumption that she received the

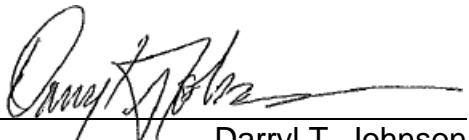
Notice. In common-law, there is a presumption that letters have been received after being placed in the mail in the due course of business. See *Good v Detroit Automobile Inter-Insurance Exchange*, 67 Mich App 270, 275-278 (1976). Claimant testified that she has been having problems receiving her mail and will be opening a mailbox in a nearby town to prevent such problems in the future. The Department's witnesses testified that they have not heard similar reports from other clients having problems receiving mail in Claimant's town of residence. Claimant has not rebutted the presumption that the letter was received.

Because Claimant has not produced evidence to show that she responded timely and fully to the VCL, the undersigned is persuaded that Claimant did not comply timely, and did not make a reasonable effort to comply timely.

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department acted in accordance with Department policy when it denied Claimant's application for benefits.

#### **DECISION AND ORDER**

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



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

Date Signed: **8/22/2014**

Date Mailed: **8/22/2014**

DTJ / jaf

**NOTICE OF APPEAL:** A party may appeal this Hearing Decision in the circuit court in the county in which he/she resides, or the circuit court in Ingham County, within 30 days of the receipt date.

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Hearing Decision from the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) within 30 days of the mailing date of this Hearing Decision, or MAHS may order a rehearing or reconsideration on its own motion.

MAHS may grant a party's Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration 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 party requesting a rehearing or reconsideration 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 this Hearing Decision is mailed.

A written request may be faxed or mailed to MAHS. If submitted by fax, 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

cc:

