

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

████████████████████
██
████████████████████

Reg. No.: 14-004828
Issue No.: 3002
Case No.: ██████████
Hearing Date: July 29, 2014
County: OAKLAND #3

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Carmen G. Fahie

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 ██████████, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included the Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████████, ES.

ISSUE

Due to a failure to comply with the verification requirements, did the Department properly close Claimant's case for:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Independence Program (FIP)? | <input type="checkbox"/> State Disability Assistance (SDA)? |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Assistance Program (FAP)? | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Development and Care (CDC)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Assistance (MA)? | |

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 received: FAP benefits.
2. The Claimant completed the telephone interview, but cited that she was homeless.
3. On April 30, 2014, the Department closed Claimant's case.
4. On April 30, 2014, the Department sent Claimant/Claimant's Authorized Representative (AR) notice of its action.

5. On June 13, 2014, Claimant/Claimant's Authorized Hearing Representative (AHR) filed a hearing request, protesting the Department's action.

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 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 273. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 to .3015.

Additionally, the Claimant applied for expedited FAP benefits on October 17, 2013. Department Exhibit 4-14. The Claimant claimed that she was [REDACTED] but with a [REDACTED]. On October 17, 2013, the Department Caseworker initiated a fee investigation on the Claimant. On April 30, 2014, the OIG Agent completed the final report of the fee investigation. The Claimant had a [REDACTED] listed on her [REDACTED] and at the [REDACTED] that was different than the address cited on the application. Department Exhibit 15-16. As a result, the Department Caseworker sent the Claimant a notice on April 30, 2014 that her FAP case was closed effective June 1, 2014 because she failed to verify or allow the Department to verify information necessary to determine eligibility for FAP. Department Exhibit 17-20. BAM 130.

The Department has not met their burden that the Claimant failed to verify her address. The Department Caseworker never sent out a verification checklist, [REDACTED], for the Claimant to provide an explanation of her living situation. During the hearing, the Claimant said that she was homeless and that a [REDACTED] was kind enough to let her [REDACTED] with her. Her name is not on the lease or utilities. She stated that the [REDACTED] would not let her change her address until she had verification of living some place else. The Claimant could not provide any verifications of residence so she could not change her address on the [REDACTED].

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 failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed the Claimant's FAP case because of failure to verify address.

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 a redetermination of the Claimant's eligibility for FAP retroactive to June 1, 2014 where the Claimant is [REDACTED].
2. Provide the Claimant with written notification of the Department's revised eligibility determination.
3. Issue the Claimant any retroactive benefits she/he may be eligible to receive, if any.

Carmen G. Fahie

Carmen G. Fahie
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

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

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

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 Claimant;
- 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

CGF/tb

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