

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-007172
Issue No.: 3002
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: August 19, 2014
County: Kent-District 1 (Franklin)

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, telephone hearing was held on Tuesday, August 19, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included the Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], HF and [REDACTED], FIS.

ISSUE

Due to a failure to comply with the verification requirements, did the Department properly reduce Claimant's benefits for Food Assistance Program (FAP)?

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. Claimant was required to submit requested verification by July 7, 2014.
3. On July 14, 2014, the Department reduced Claimant's benefits.
4. On July 14, 2014, the Department sent Claimant/Claimant's Authorized Representative (AR) notice of its action.
5. On July 17, 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 was due for a redetermination of her FAP benefits in June 2014. On June 26, 2014, the Department Caseworker received the Claimant's Redetermination Application to determine continued eligibility for FAP. Department Exhibit 2-7. Because of her employment as a bus driver during the school year, the Claimant was only eligible for █████ in FAP benefits with an earned income of █████. Carmen Exhibit 23-25.

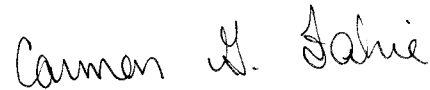
On June 27, 2014, the Department Caseworker sent the Claimant a verification checklist, DHS-3503, for the Claimant to provide additional verification that was due July 7, 2014. Department Exhibit 8-9. On July 11, 2014, the Claimant submitted a verification of employment, DHS-38, of her job as a school bus driver, which ended when the school year ended on June 20, 2014. Department Exhibit 10-12. As a result, the Department Caseworker re-determined the Claimant's eligibility for FAP benefits based on that end of employment where the Claimant was eligible for █████ in FAP benefits. Department Exhibit 20-22. On July 14, 2014, the Department Caseworker sent the Claimant a notice that she had an increase in FAP benefits due to end of employment of █████. Department Exhibit 13-17. BAM 210, 220, and 600. BEM 500, 501, and 505.

Since the Claimant reported her change in income timely where her job ended for the summer, she was eligible for a FAP supplement that required a BRIDGES help desk ticket. The Department Caseworker requested a BRIDGES help desk ticket for the Claimant to be issued a FAP supplement for the contested time period.

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 acted in accordance with Department policy when it changed the Claimant FAP benefits due to an end of a job resulted in an increase in FAP benefits and requiring a BRIDGES help desk ticket to issue a FAP supplement.

DECISION AND ORDER

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



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

Date Signed: **8/29/2014**

Date Mailed: **8/29/2014**

CGF / 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:

