

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-007223
Issue No.: 3001
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: September 09, 2014
County: Oakland #2

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Carmen 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 Tuesday, September 09, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included the Claimant with her mother and authorized representative, [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], APW and [REDACTED] APSup.

ISSUE

Due to excess income, did the Department properly reduce Claimant's benefits for Food Assistance Program (FAP)?

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 received FAP benefits.
2. On May 29, 2014, the Department reduced Claimant's benefits due to excess income.
3. On May 29, 2014, the Department sent Claimant/Claimant's Authorized Representative (AR) its decision.
4. On July 14, 2014, Claimant/Claimant's Authorized Hearing Representative (AHR) filed a hearing request, protesting the Department's actions.

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 a recipient of FAP benefits. Due to Department error, the Claimant's FAP case was closed, which is why she originally requested a hearing. However, the Department subsequently found the asset verification and was able to reopen the Claimant's FAP case. The Claimant received Social Security benefits of \$ [REDACTED]

As a result of excess income, the Claimant had a decrease in FAP benefits. After deductions from her gross income of \$ [REDACTED] of a \$ [REDACTED] standard deduction for an adjusted gross income of \$ [REDACTED]. The Claimant was given a total shelter deduction of \$ [REDACTED] resulting from a housing expense of \$ [REDACTED] and heat and utility standard of \$ [REDACTED]. The Claimant was given an adjusted excess shelter deduction of \$ [REDACTED] with a total shelter deduction of \$ [REDACTED] minus 50% of adjusted gross income of \$ [REDACTED]. The Claimant had a net income of \$ [REDACTED] which was the adjusted gross income of \$ [REDACTED] minus the excess shelter deduction of \$ [REDACTED]. With a net income of \$ [REDACTED] the Claimant qualified with a household group size of 1 for a maximum benefit of \$ [REDACTED] plus \$ [REDACTED] in economic recovery minus 30% of net income of \$ [REDACTED] resulting in a net benefit amount of \$ [REDACTED]. Department Exhibit 5-7.

During the hearing, the Claimant's mother and authorized representative stated that the Claimant is responsible for utilities. However, the Claimant's mother did not mark on the application that the Claimant was responsible for any utilities, but that the Claimant's rent included utilities. Department Exhibit C. In addition, the Claimant's mother stated during the telephone interview according to the Department Caseworker that the rent included utilities. Department Exhibit 8. Therefore, the Department's action stands.

The Department has met its burden that the Claimant had excess income for FAP resulting in a decrease in FAP benefits from \$ [REDACTED] to \$ [REDACTED]. BEM 400 and 554. BAM 130, 200, 205, and 220.

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 reduced the Claimant's FAP benefits from \$█ to \$█ due to excess income.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

Carmen H. Fahie

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

Date Signed: **9/23/2014**

Date Mailed: **9/23/2014**

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 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

CGF / tb

cc:

