

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-010628
Issue No.: 3002
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: September 25, 2014
County: DHS SSPC-WEST

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, telephone hearing was held on Thursday, September 25, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included the Claimant and his [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], HF.

ISSUE

Due to a failure to comply with the verification requirements, did the Department properly deny Claimant's application 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 applied for FAP benefits.
2. Claimant was required to submit requested verification by August 8, 2014.
3. On August 12, 2014, the Department denied Claimant's application.
4. On August 12, 2014, the Department sent Claimant/Claimant's Authorized Representative (AR) notice of its action.
5. On August 22, 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 FAP on July 11, 2014. On July 29, 2014, the Department Caseworker sent the Claimant a Verification Checklist for written verification that was due August 8, 2014. Department Exhibit 9-10. The Claimant failed to provide the required verification of his lease with an authorized signature and utility payment verification that were due on August 8, 2014. As a result, the Department Caseworker sent the Claimant a notice that his FAP application was denied on August 12, 2014 due to failure to provide verification. Department Exhibit 18-19. BEM 400, 503, and 554. BAM 115, 130, and 600. MSA 13-35.

During the hearing, the Department stated that the Claimant's FAP case was denied in error. The Claimant's case was reinstated back to the application date of July 11, 2014. The Claimant's case was processed for FAP, but without the lease deduction. He was approved for a prorated amount for July 2014 of \$■■■■ \$■■■■ for August 2014 with utility deduction, and \$■■■■ forward. On September 25, 2014, the Department received a properly signed copy of the Claimant's lease, which may result in an increase in FAP benefits. Department Exhibit A-G.

The Department met their burden that the Claimant's FAP was corrected and properly processed.

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 reopened to correct and properly processed the Claimant's FAP benefits.

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: **10/3/2014**

Date Mailed: **10/3/2014**

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:

