

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

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████████████████████

Reg. No.: 14-009848
Issue Nos.: 1001, 3001
Case No.: ████████████████████
Hearing Date: October 20, 2014
County: Wayne (17-Greenfield/Joy)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Michael J. Bennane

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 October 20, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ████████████████████

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close Claimant's Family Independence Program (FIP) and Food Assistance (FAP) cases due to Claimant's failure to verify her minor child's school attendance?

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 was an ongoing recipient of the Family Independence Program (FIP).
2. On July 1, 2014, the Department sent Claimant a verification of student information form.
3. On July 18, 2014, the Department sent Claimant a notice of case action informing her that her FIP benefits were scheduled to close August 1, 2014.
4. On July 29, 2014, Claimant requested a hearing to protest the Department's closure of her FAP and FIP benefits.

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), Department of Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT), and Department of Human Services Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

The Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-193, and 42 USC 601 to 679c. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FIP pursuant to 45 CFR 233-260, MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101 to .3131.

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.

FAP

At the beginning of the hearing, Claimant testified that her FAP benefits had not been closed or reduced. There is no evidence that the Department took any negative action concerning Claimant's FAP benefits.

Therefore, the request for a hearing concerning Claimant's FAP benefits is DISMISSED.

FIP

Department policy demands that a parent of a minor child must provide verification of that child's attendance in school. BEM 245 (July 2014). Claimant testified that her son was going to be attending a new internet school and that she needed to get a state identification for her son to allow him to register.

Claimant informed the Department as to which school her son would be attending [REDACTED] but also informed the Department that she was unable to obtain documentation of his attendance.

The Department attempted to obtain the needed information as well, but was also unsuccessful in obtaining the requested documentation after attempting to contact the school by telephone. The Department further testified that when it attempted to contact the school by telephone, there was a voicemail message that the school was not offering any summer school classes.

Department policy states that when documentation cannot be obtained, the Department should use the best information available. BAM 130 (January 2014).

In the instant case, neither Claimant nor the Department was able to obtain the requested documentation. The Department has the ability to request the school documentation at any time after a claimant's child is enrolled.

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 .
- did not act in accordance with Department policy when it moved to close Claimant's FIP benefits for failure to provide documentation of her minor son's school attendance.
- failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it .

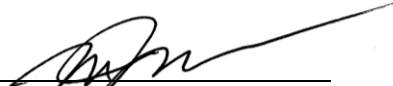
DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is

- AFFIRMED.
- REVERSED.
- DISMISSED IN PART with respect to FAP and REVERSED IN PART with respect to FIP.

- 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. Reinstate Claimant's FIP benefits retroactive to the closure date of August 1, 2014.



Michael J. Bennane
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: **10/27/2014**

Date Mailed: **10/27/2014**

MJB / pf

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:

[REDACTED]