

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-004867
Issue No.: 3006
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: November 25, 2014
County: Kalamazoo

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Kevin Scully

HEARING DECISION

Upon a hearing request by the Department of Human Services (Department) to establish an overissuance (OI) of benefits to Respondent, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9, 400.43a, and 24.201, et seq., and Mich Admin Code, R 400.941, and in accordance with 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 November 25, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of the Department included [REDACTED].

Participants on behalf of Respondent included [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did Respondent receive an OI of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. Respondent was a recipient of FAP benefits from the Department.
2. The Department alleges Respondent received a FAP OI during the period October 1, 2012, through May 31, 2014, due to Respondent's error.
3. The Department alleges that Respondent received a \$ [REDACTED] OI that is still due and owing to the Department.

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.

A person is in student status if he is age 18 through 49 and enrolled half-time or more in a vocational, trade, business, or technical school that normally requires a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate or is enrolled in the regular curriculum at a college or university that offers degree programs regardless of whether a diploma is required. A person in student status is not eligible for Food Assistance Program (FAP) unless that person meets the requirements of the student status policy. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 245 (July 1, 2014), pp 1-11.

The Respondent was an ongoing Food Assistance Program (FAP) recipient from October 1, 2012, through May 31, 2014. The Respondent was enrolled in a post-secondary educational program during this period but failed to report this to the Department. As a group of one with no income, the Respondent did not meet the criteria for a person in student status to remain eligible for the Food Assistance Program (FAP). If the Respondent had reported his attendance in school to the Department, he would not have been eligible for any of the Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits he was issued. Since the Respondent received Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits that he was not eligible for, the Department is required to recoup the overissuance.

The Respondent testified that he is more deserving for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits because he is working at improving his circumstances.


The Respondent's grievance centers on dissatisfaction with the Department's current policy. Administrative Law Judges have no authority to overrule statutes, overrule promulgated regulations, or make exceptions to the department policy set out in the program manuals. Furthermore, administrative adjudication is an exercise of executive power rather than judicial power, and restricts the granting of equitable remedies. *Michigan Mutual Liability Co. v Baker*, 295 Mich 237; 294 NW 168 (1940).

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, finds that the Department did establish a FAP benefit OI to Respondent totaling \$ [REDACTED]

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department is **AFFIRMED**.

The Department is ORDERED to initiate collection procedures for a \$ [REDACTED] OI in accordance with Department policy.



Kevin Scully
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: **12/2/2014**

Date Mailed: **12/2/2014**

KS/las

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:

