

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 14-005180  
Issue No.: 3002  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: August 12, 2014  
County: Calhoun County DHS

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Gary F Heisler

**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 August 12, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included herself. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included Hearing Facilitator [REDACTED].

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly close Claimant's Food Assistance Program on June 5, 2014?

**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 Food Assistance Program benefits.
2. On May 6, 2014, Claimant was sent a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503).
3. On June 5, 2014, Claimant reported loss of employment.
4. On June 5, 2014, Claimant was sent a Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) which stated her Food Assistance Program would close beginning July 1, 2014 for failure to provide verifications.
5. On June 16, 2014, Claimant submitted a hearing request.

**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 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.

The evidence submitted by the Department does not provide any reason that the May 6, 2014, Verification Checklist (DHS-3503) was issued. There is no explanation of why Claimant's FAP was not closed on May 16, 2014, the due date for the checklist. There are case comments in evidence. On February 5, 2014 the case worker made an entry about Claimant's FAP being approved by a mass update without having an interview. The next entry is June 5, 2014, stating Claimant reported end of income and the FAP was closed for not providing the verifications requested in May. Because of the documented abnormalities in processing Claimant's FAP, the validity and requirement of the May 6, 2014 Verification Checklist (DHS-3503) is questionable.

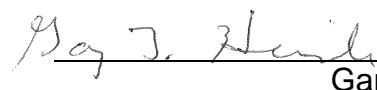
The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed Claimant's Food Assistance Program on June 5, 2014.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's decision **REVERSED**.

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 Food Assistance Program.
2. Re-determine her Food Assistance Program eligibility from July 1, 2014 ongoing.
3. Issue Claimant a Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) stating the re-determination.



Gary F. Heisler  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: **8/26/2014**

Date Mailed: **8/26/2014**

GFH/hj

**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:

