

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-009437
Issue No.: 3002
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: September 11, 2014
County: Kent-District 1

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Kevin Scully

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 September 11, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close the Claimant's 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. The Claimant was an ongoing Food Assistance Program (FAP) recipient.
2. On July 7, 2014, the Department discovered that the Claimant had started new employment.
3. On July 8, 2014, the Department sent the Claimant a New Hire Notice (DHS-4635) requesting verification of the Claimant's earned income by July 18, 2014.
4. On July 22, 2014, the Department notified the Claimant that it would close his Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits as of September 1, 2014.
5. On August 4, 2014, the Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing protesting the closure of his Food Assistance Program (FAP) 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 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.

Clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility and this includes the completion of necessary forms. Department of Human Services Bridges Assistance Manual (BAM) 105 (April 1, 2014), p 5.

Verification means documentation or other evidence to establish the accuracy of the client's verbal or written statements. Verification is usually required at application/redetermination and for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level when it is required by policy, required as a local office option, or information regarding an eligibility factor is unclear, inconsistent, incomplete, or contradictory. The Department uses documents, collateral contacts, or home calls to verify information. A collateral contact is a direct contact with a person, organization, or agency to verify information from the client. When documentation is not available, or clarification is needed, collateral contact may be necessary. Department of Human Services Bridges Assistance Manual (BAM) 130 (July 1, 2014), pp 1-9.

The Claimant was an ongoing Food Assistance Program (FAP) recipient when the Department discovered that the Claimant has started new employment through its computer interface with databases managed by the Department of Treasury. On July 7, 2014, the Department sent the Claimant a New Hire Notice (DHS-4635) requesting verification of the Claimant's earned income by July 18, 2014. On August 4, 2014, the Department had not received a response to its request for information, and notified the Claimant that it would close his Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits as of September 1, 2014.

On August 4, 2014, the Department received verification of the Claimant's starting earned income. On August 18, 2014, the Department notified the Claimant that it would close his Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits because this new source of income put his benefit group over the income limit to participate in the Food Assistance Program (FAP).

The Claimant did not dispute that verification of his earned income was not submitted in a timely manner, or that the Department properly determined his earned income from the pay check stubs he provided. The Claimant testified that his income has been reduced since the first few weeks of employment.


This Administrative Law Judge finds that the Department was acting in accordance with policy when it closed the Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits after he failed to respond to the Department's request for information in a timely manner. This Administrative Law Judge finds that the issue of whether the Department properly determined the Claimant's monthly gross income is outside the scope of the Claimant's August 4, 2014, hearing request, but since the Claimant does not dispute the Department's handling of this new source of income, there is no reason to suspect that the subsequent closure of his Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits was also proper.

The Claimant is eligible to re-apply for Food Assistance Program (FAP) at any time should his circumstances change.

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 closed the Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.



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

Date Signed: **9/12/2014**

Date Mailed: **9/12/2014**

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:

