

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-013875
Issue No.: 3007
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: November 18, 2014
County: NEWAYGO

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Gary 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 November 18, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included herself. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ES [REDACTED] and Lead Worker [REDACTED]

ISSUE

Did the Department properly process the Food Assistance Program group composition change which Claimant reported on August 22, 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 August 22, 2014, Claimant left a phone message for her DHS case worker stating that her two sons were back in her custody and should be added to her Food Assistance Program case.
3. On September 4, 2014, the DHS case worker entered the change on BRIDGES. BRIDGES still showed the children as being in Foster Care. The DHS case worker sent an Email enquiry to the children's Foster Care worker.
4. On September 8, 2014, the children's Foster Care worker responded to the enquiry and confirmed that primary custody of the children reverted to Claimant in August.

5. On September 10, 2014, Claimant was sent a Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) which stated her Food Assistance Program benefits would increase on October 1, 2014 due to the larger benefit group.
6. On October 8, 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.

Claimant asserts that since she reported the change on August 22, 2014, the change should have gone into effect for September 2014. Bridges Administration Manual (BAM) 220 Case Actions, at pages 6 & 7 states:

STANDARDS OF PROMPTNESS

All Programs

The standard of promptness (SOP) is the maximum time allowed to complete a required case action. Cases should be processed as quickly as possible. The SOP sometimes varies by program.

FAP Only

Act on a change reported by means other than a tape match within 10 days of becoming aware of the change.

Benefit Increases: Changes which result in an increase in the household's benefits must be effective no later than the first allotment issued 10 days after the date the change was reported, provided any necessary verification was returned by the due date. A supplemental issuance may be necessary in some cases. If necessary verification is **not** returned by the due date, take appropriate action based on what type of verification was requested. If verification is returned late, the increase must affect the month after verification is returned.

Example: Rich reports on March 23rd that he now has a shelter expense. Act on the change by April 2nd. May's benefits will be the first month affected because

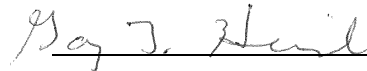
the 10th day after the change is reported falls in the next benefit period. Affect the April issuance if the action can be completed by March 31st.

In this case the change was reported on August 22, 2014. BAM 220 requires that the resulting increase go into effect no later than 10 days after reported, September 1, 2014. The example above illustrates that October's benefits will be the first month affected because the 10th day after the change is reported (September 1, 2014) falls in the next benefit period.

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 processed the Food Assistance Program group composition change which Claimant reported on August 22, 2014.

DECISION AND ORDER

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



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

Date Signed: **11/21/2014**

Date Mailed: **11/21/2014**

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 48909-8139

CC:

