

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

████████████████████  
████████████████████  
████████████████████

Reg. No.: 2014 11430  
Issue No.: 1002  
Case No.: ██████████  
Hearing Date: December 5, 2013  
County: Oakland (02)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Lynn M. Ferris

**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 December 5, 2013, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included the Claimant. ██████████ the Claimant's Authorized Hearing Representative, also appeared on her behalf. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████████, FIM.

**ISSUE**

Due to a failure to comply with the verification requirements, did the Department properly  deny Claimant's application  close Claimant's case  reduce Claimant's benefits for:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Independence Program (FIP)?        | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Medical Program (AMP)?       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Assistance Program (FAP)? | <input type="checkbox"/> State Disability Assistance (SDA)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Assistance (MA)?                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Development and Care (CDC)?  |

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, including testimony of witnesses, finds as material fact:

1. Claimant  applied for  received:  
 FIP  FAP  MA  AMP  SDA  CDC  
benefits.

2. Claimant was required to complete an interview and return her redetermination form by July 1, 2013.
3. During the period of the redetermination the claimant was on bed rest and had surgery on [REDACTED] and continued to be on bed rest. The claimant did not return the redetermination until July 31, 2013 by fax. Exhibit 1
4. The claimant advised the Department that she was having surgery and could not complete the redetermination prior to July 1, 2013 and advised the Department of her surgery.
5. On July 31, 2013, the Department
  - denied Claimant's application.
  - closed Claimant's case.
  - reduced Claimant's benefits.
4. On July 31, 2013, the Department sent Claimant/Claimant's Authorized Representative (AR) notice of its action.
5. On October 20, 2013, Claimant/Claimant's Authorized Hearing Representative (AHR) filed a hearing request, protesting the Department's action.

### **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 271.1 to 285.5. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 to .3015.

Additionally, the evidence introduced at the hearing indicated that the claimant did receive the redetermination and the notice of missed interview; however, during the period prior to and after the various due dates she was on bed rest due to a surgery during the month of July 2013. The Department was aware of the surgery and the claimant did her best to provide the Department the information and did so by July 31, 2013, at which time she had her sister fax the information because she was bedridden. The claimant's testimony was credible and she did produce a letter from her doctor indicating that she is unable to drive and was eligible for household replacement services by her doctor. Claimant Exhibit B.

Under these circumstances it cannot reasonably be determined that the claimant refused to cooperate. BAM 130 provides:

Send a negative action notice when:

- The client indicates refusal to provide a verification, **or**
- The time period given has elapsed and the client has **not** made a reasonable effort to provide it. BAM 130 pp.6, (7/1/13).

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

did not act in accordance with Department policy when it closed the claimant's Food Assistance for failure to respond to the redetermination by the due date.

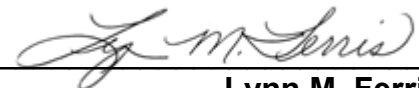
### **DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's decision is

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. Department shall initiate reinstatement of the claimant's Food Assistance case and shall process the case to complete the redetermination.
2. The Department shall issue a food assistance supplement to the claimant for food assistance benefits she was otherwise entitled to receive, if any, in accordance with Department policy.



**Lynn M. Ferris**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: December 11, 2013

Date Mailed: December 11, 2013

**NOTICE OF APPEAL:** The claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the receipt of the Decision and Order or, if a timely Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration was

made, within 30 days of the receipt date of the Decision and Order of Reconsideration or Rehearing Decision.

Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) may order a rehearing or reconsideration on either its own motion or at the request of a party within 30 days of the mailing date of this Decision and Order. MAHS will not order a rehearing or reconsideration on the Department's motion where the final decision cannot be implemented within 90 days of the filing of the original request (60 days for FAP cases).

A Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration may be granted 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 Department, AHR or the claimant 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 the hearing decision is mailed.

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

LMF/cl

cc: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]