

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 201412548
Issue No.: 1002, 2002
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: December 17, 2013
County: Berrien County DHS

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 December 17, 2013, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Whether the Department of Human Services (Department) properly closed the Claimant's Medical Assistance (M.A.) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) case for failure to provide the Department with information necessary to determine his eligibility to receive benefits.?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. The Claimant was an ongoing Medical Assistance (M.A.) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) recipient.
2. On September 16, 2013, the Department sent the Claimant a Redetermination (DHS-1010).
3. On October 18, 2013, the Department sent the Claimant a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503).
4. On October 30, 2013, the Department notified the Claimant that his Medical Assistance (M.A.) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits would close as of December 1, 2013.

5. The Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing on November 7, 2013, protesting the closure of his Medical Assistance (M.A.) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by the Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5, and is implemented by 42 CFR 400.200 to 1008.59. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10 and MCL 400.105.

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.

Clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility. This includes the completion of necessary forms. Department of Human Services Bridges Assistance Manual (BAM) 105 (March 1, 2013), p 5. Verification means documentation or other evidence to establish the accuracy of the client's verbal or written statements. Department of Human Services Bridges Assistance Manual (BAM) 130 (May 1, 2012), p 1. 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. BAM 130. The Department uses documents, collateral contacts, or home calls to verify information. BAM 130. A collateral contact is a direct contact with a person, organization, or agency to verify information from the client. BAM 130. When documentation is not available, or clarification is needed, collateral contact may be necessary. BAM 130.

The Claimant was an ongoing Medical Assistance (M.A.) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) recipient when the Department conducted a routine review of his eligibility to receive continued benefits. On September 16, 2013, the Department sent the Claimant a Redetermination (DHS-1010). The Claimant received and returned this from in a timely manner. Based on the information the Claimant reported on his Redetermination, the Department sent the Claimant a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503). The Department requested that the Claimant provide verification of his assets. On October 30, 2013, the Department had not received the Claimant's verification material, and it notified him that it would close his Medical Assistance (M.A.) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) case as of December 1, 2013, for failure to provide the Department with information necessary to determine his eligibility to receive benefits.

The Claimant argued that he provided the Department with the required verification documents in a timely manner. The Claimant testified that he dropped off the requested documents at the Department's office.

Testimony and other evidence must be weighed and considered according to its reasonableness. *Gardiner v Courtright*, 165 Mich 54, 62; 130 NW 322 (1911); *Dep't of Community Health v Risch*, 274 Mich App 365, 372; 733 NW2d 403 (2007). Moreover,

the weight and credibility of this evidence is generally for the fact-finder to determine. Dep't of Community Health, 274 Mich App at 372; People v Terry, 224 Mich App 447, 452; 569 NW2d 641 (1997). In evaluating the credibility and weight to be given the testimony of a witness, the fact-finder may consider the demeanor of the witness, the reasonableness of the witness's testimony, and the interest, if any, the witness may have in the outcome of the matter. People v Wade, 303 Mich 303 (1942), cert den, 318 US 783 (1943).

Based on the evidence and testimony available during the hearing, this Administrative Law Judge finds that the Claimant failed to establish that he provided the Department with the information requested on October 18, 2013. Therefore, the Department was acting in accordance with policy when it closed his Medical Assistance (M.A.) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits as of December 1, 2013.

DECISION AND ORDER

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 Medical Assistance (M.A.) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

/s/ _____
Kevin

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

Date Signed: December 20, 2013

Date Mailed: December 23, 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

KS/hj

cc:

