

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

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████████████████████

Reg. No.: 2014-16437
Issue No(s): 2002;3000;4002
Case No.: ██████████
Hearing Date: January 9, 2014
County: Wayne (35)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Zainab Baydoun

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 January 9, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████████, Medical Contact Worker.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly process Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits and deny his application for Medical Assistance (MA) and State Disability Assistance (SDA) 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. Claimant was an ongoing recipient of FAP benefits.
2. On July 18, 2013, Claimant submitted an application for MA and SDA.
3. On September 16, 2013, the Department sent Claimant a Medical Determination Verification Checklist along with other forms for which Claimant was required to complete and submit to the Department on September 26, 2013. (Exhibit 1, p. 6).
4. On December 2, 2013, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action informing him that his SDA and MA application had been denied on the basis that

he failed to return information necessary to complete a disability determination. (Exhibit 1, pp.7-9)

5. On December 6, 2013, Claimant submitted a hearing request disputing the Department's actions.

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).

FAP

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.

The hearing was requested to dispute the Department's action taken with respect to Claimant's FAP benefits. Shortly after commencement of the hearing, Claimant testified that he understands and is satisfied with the actions taken by the Department and that he no longer had any issues to address with respect to his FAP case. Claimant further stated that he did not wish to proceed with the hearing concerning his FAP case and that he had active and ongoing FAP benefits. The Request for Hearing was withdrawn. The Department agreed to the dismissal of the hearing request. Pursuant to the withdrawal of the hearing request filed in this matter, the Request for Hearing regarding the FAP case is hereby **DISMISSED**.

MA/SDA

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 State Disability Assistance (SDA) program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3151-.3180.

Additionally, verification is usually required at application/redetermination and for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level. BAM 130 (July 2013), p.1. To request verification of information, the Department sends a verification checklist which

tells the client what verification is required, how to obtain it, and the due date. BAM 130, pp. 2-3. Although the client must obtain the required verification, the Department must assist if a client needs and requests help. If neither the client nor the Department can obtain the verification despite a reasonable effort, the Department is to use the best available information; and if no evidence is available, the Department is to use its best judgment. BAM 130, p. 3.

With respect to MA cases, clients are given 10 calendar days to provide the verifications requested by the Department. BAM 130, p.6. If the client cannot provide the verification despite a reasonable effort, the Department is to extend the time limit to submit the verifications up to three times. BAM 130, p. 6. Verifications are considered to be timely if received by the date they are due. BAM 130, p.6. The Department will send a negative action notice when the client indicates refusal to provide a verification, or the time period given has elapsed. BAM 130, p. 7.

With respect to SDA cases, clients are given 10 calendar days to provide the verifications requested by the Department. Verifications are considered to be timely if received by the date they are due. BAM 130, p.6. The Department will 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, p.6.

In this case, in connection with Claimant's MA and SDA application, the Department testified that on September 16, 2013, it sent Claimant a Medical Determination Verification Checklist, a Medical Social Questionnaire, an Activities of Daily Living form, an Authorization to Release Protected Health Information form, and a Reimbursement Authorization form, for which Claimant was instructed to return and complete to the Department by September 26, 2013. The Department stated that because it did not receive the requested information by the due date and because it did not receive any communication from Claimant requesting an extension or indicating he was having difficulty obtaining the verifications, it sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action on December 2, 2013, denying the application.

At the hearing, Claimant initially testified that he is not sure if he received the VCL and related documents. Claimant later testified that he filled out some forms and returned them to the Department; however, Claimant could not recall what forms he did complete and return or when he turned them in. Claimant stated that he did not understand what was being requested and confirmed that he did not contact the Department about the difficulty he was having in obtaining the requested verifications.

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 denied Claimant's MA and SDA applications based on a failure to return documentation necessary to complete a disability determination.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, Claimant's hearing request with respect to FAP is DISMISSED and the Department's MA and SDA decisions are AFFIRMED.



Zainab Baydoun
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: January 14, 2014

Date Mailed: January 14, 2014

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

ZB/tm

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