

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 201423244
Issue No.: 2002
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: April 22, 2014
County: Oakland County DHS #2

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 April 22, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED], as attorney for the Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], and Assistant Attorney General [REDACTED] of behalf of the Department.

ISSUE

Whether the Department of Human Services (Department) properly deny the Claimant's application for Medical Assistance (MA)?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. On November 22, 2013, the Department received the Claimant's application for Medical Assistance (MA).
2. On December 4, 2013, the Department sent the Claimant a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503) requesting verification of household income by December 17, 2013.
3. On January 3, 2014, the Department notified the Claimant that it had denied his application for Medical Assistance (MA) for failure to provide the Department with information necessary to determine his eligibility to receive benefits.
4. The Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing on January 15, 2014, protesting the denial of his application for Medical Assistance (MA).

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.

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 Department will sent a negative action 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. Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 130 (April 1, 2014).

Before determining eligibility, the Department will give the client a reasonable opportunity to resolve any discrepancy between his statements and information from another source. BAM 130.

In this case, the Department received the Claimant's application for Medical Assistance (MA) on November 22, 2013. On December 4, 2013, the Department sent the Claimant a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503) requesting that the Claimant provide verification of household income and other information necessary to determine his eligibility for benefits. On January 3, 2014, the Department had not received sufficient verification documents to determine the Claimant's household income, and it notified him that it had denied his application for assistance.

The Claimant's attorney argued that she was unable to obtain the information requested by the Department because the Claimant and his spouse had separated before he submitted his application for assistance. The Claimant's attorney argued that the information requested by the Department is held by the Claimant's spouse. The Claimant's attorney argued that the Department was notified of the problems obtaining the requested verification material.

Based on the evidence and testimony available during the hearing, this Administrative Law Judge finds that the Claimant, through his representatives, made a reasonable attempt to provide the Department with the information necessary to determine his eligibility to receive Medical Assistance (MA). The Department had a duty to assist the Claimant to provide the required information, and had a duty to request additional information to clarify any discrepancies in his application for assistance.

Therefore, this Administrative Law Judge finds that the Department was not acting in accordance with policy when it denied the Claimant's application for Medical Assistance (MA) for failure to provide the Department with information necessary to determine his eligibility to receive benefits.

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 did not act in accordance with Department policy when it denied the Claimant's application for assistance.

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. Provide the Claimant with a ten-day period to provide the Department with any information necessary to determine his eligibility to receive Medical Assistance (MA).
2. Initiate a determination of the Claimant's eligibility for Medical Assistance (MA) based on his November 22, 2013, application for benefits.
3. Provide the Claimant with a Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) describing the Department's revised eligibility determination.
4. Issue the Claimant any retroactive benefits he may be eligible to receive, if any.



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

Date Signed: April 23, 2014

Date Mailed: April 23, 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

KS/hj

cc:

