

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

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

Reg. No.: 2014-239
Issue No.: 3005, 4005
Case No.: ██████████
Hearing Date: December 19, 2013
County: Calhoun

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Alice C. Elkin

HEARING DECISION FOR INTENTIONAL PROGRAM VIOLATION

Upon the request for a hearing by the Department of Human Services (Department), this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9, and in accordance with Titles 7, 42 and 45 of the Code of Federal Regulation (CFR), particularly 7 CFR 273.16, and with Mich Admin Code, R 400.3130 and R 400.3178. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on December 19, 2013 from Detroit, Michigan. The Department was represented by ██████████
██████████

Participants on behalf of Respondent included: .

Respondent did not appear at the hearing and it was held in Respondent's absence pursuant to 7 CFR 273.16(e), Mich Admin Code R 400.3130(5), or Mich Admin Code R 400.3178(5).

ISSUES

1. Did Respondent receive an overissuance (OI) of
 Family Independence Program (FIP) State Disability Assistance (SDA)
 Food Assistance Program (FAP) Child Development and Care (CDC)
 Medical Assistance (MA)
benefits that the Department is entitled to recoup?
2. Did Respondent, by clear and convincing evidence, commit an Intentional Program Violation (IPV)?
3. Should Respondent be disqualified from receiving
 Family Independence Program (FIP)? State Disability Assistance (SDA)?
 Food Assistance Program (FAP)? Child Development and Care (CDC)?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. The Department's OIG filed a hearing request on September 23, 2013, to establish an OI of benefits received by Respondent as a result of Respondent having allegedly committed an IPV.
2. The OIG has has not requested that Respondent be disqualified from receiving program benefits.
3. Respondent was a recipient of FIP FAP SDA CDC MA benefits issued by the Department.
4. Respondent was was not aware of the responsibility to report income.
5. Respondent had no apparent physical or mental impairment that would limit the understanding or ability to fulfill this requirement.
6. The Department alleges that between March 1, 2012, and June 30, 2012, Respondent was issued \$800 in FIP FAP SDA CDC MA benefits by the State of Michigan, but was eligible to receive \$0 in such benefits during this time period.
7. The Department alleges that Respondent received an OI in FIP FAP SDA CDC MA benefits in the amount of \$800.
8. The Department alleges that between March 1, 2012 and July 31, 2012, Respondent was issued \$1,000 in FIP FAP SDA CDC MA benefits by the State of Michigan, but was eligible to receive \$0 in such benefits during this time period.
9. The Department alleges that Respondent received an OI in FIP FAP SDA CDC MA benefits in the amount of \$1,000.
10. On April 1, 2013, Respondent signed an Intentional Program Violation Repayment Agreement agreeing that he was overissued \$800 in FAP benefits and \$1,000 in SDA benefits because he had failed to report his worker's compensation benefits from January 23, 2012 to June 12, 2012.
11. This was Respondent's first alleged FAP IPV and first alleged SDA IPV.
12. A notice of hearing was mailed to Respondent at the last known address and was was not returned by the US Post Office as undeliverable.

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). Prior to August 1, 2008, Department policies were contained in the Department of Human Services Program Administrative Manuals (PAM), Department of Human Services Program Eligibility Manual (PEM), and Department of Human Services Reference Schedules Manual (RFS).

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 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.

The Department's OIG requests IPV hearings for the following cases:

- FAP trafficking OIs that are not forwarded to the prosecutor,
- prosecution of welfare fraud or FAP trafficking is declined by the prosecutor for a reason other than lack of evidence, and
 - the total OI amount for the FIP, SDA, CDC, MA and FAP programs is \$1000 or more, or
 - the total OI amount is less than \$1000, **and**
 - the group has a previous IPV, or
 - the alleged IPV involves FAP trafficking, or
 - the alleged fraud involves concurrent receipt of assistance (see BEM 222), or
 - the alleged fraud is committed by a state/government employee.

BAM 720 (July 2013), p. 12.

Intentional Program Violation

Suspected IPV means an OI exists for which all three of the following conditions exist:

- The client intentionally failed to report information **or** intentionally gave incomplete or inaccurate information needed to make a correct benefit determination, and
- The client was clearly and correctly instructed regarding his or her reporting responsibilities, and
- The client has no apparent physical or mental impairment that limits his or her understanding or ability to fulfill reporting responsibilities.

BAM 700 (July 2013), p. 7; BAM 720, p. 1.

An IPV is also suspected for a client who is alleged to have trafficked FAP benefits. BAM 720, p. 1.

In this case, the Department alleges that Respondent committed an IPV concerning his FAP and SDA cases because he failed to report his worker's compensation income and received an OI of FAP and SDA benefits as a result. An IPV requires that the Department establish by clear and convincing evidence that the client has intentionally withheld or misrepresented information for the **purpose** of establishing, maintaining, increasing or preventing reduction of program benefits or eligibility. BAM 720, p. 1 (emphasis in original); see also 7 CFR 273(e)(6). Clear and convincing evidence is evidence sufficient to result in a clear and firm belief that the proposition is true. See M Civ JI 8.01.

In this case, in the FAP and SDA application Respondent completed on January 19, 2012, Respondent indicated he had no income but he disclosed that he anticipated receiving worker's compensation income based on his work-related injury. Exhibit 1, pp. 26, 32. Another note, presumably from the worker, identifies a contact person and telephone number at [REDACTED] in connection with Respondent's worker's compensation award. Exhibit 1, p. 33. The worker's notes of an interview with Respondent in connection with his SDA redetermination on June 22, 2012, reveal that Respondent disclosed his biweekly worker's compensation and the worker verified that the income began January 23, 2012.

The fact that Respondent disclosed that he anticipated receiving a worker's compensation award at the time of his January 2012 19, 2012, application, that information concerning the contact person at [REDACTED] was on the application, and that Respondent disclosed the information at the June 2012 interview, run contrary to the Department's position that Respondent withheld information concerning his worker's compensation award for the purpose of maintaining or preventing reduction of his FAP and SDA benefits. Accordingly, the Department has failed to establish, by clear and convincing evidence, the Respondent committed an IPV concerning his FAP and SDA cases.

Disqualification

A court or hearing decision that finds a client committed IPV disqualifies that client from receiving program benefits. BAM 720, p. 12. A disqualified recipient remains a member of an active group as long as he lives with them, and other eligible group members may continue to receive benefits. BAM 720, p. 13.

Clients who commit an IPV are disqualified for a standard disqualification period except when a court orders a different period, or except when the OI relates to MA. BAM 720, p. 13. Refusal to repay will not cause denial of current or future MA if the client is otherwise eligible. BAM 710 (July 2013), p. 2. Clients are disqualified for periods of one year for the first IPV, two years for the second IPV, lifetime disqualification for the third IPV, and ten years for a FAP concurrent receipt of benefits. BAM 720, p. 16.

In this case, the Department failed to satisfy its burden of showing that Respondent committed an FAP IPV or an SDA IPV. Therefore, Respondent is **not** subject to a disqualification from the either the FAP or SDA programs.

Overissuance

When a client group receives more benefits than they are entitled to receive, the Department must attempt to recoup the OI. BAM 700, p. 1. The amount of the OI is the benefit amount the client actually received minus the amount the client was eligible to receive. BAM 720, p. 8; BAM 715 (July 2013), pp. 1, 6; BAM 705 (July 2013), p. 6.

In this case, the Department presented an Intentional Program Violation Repayment Agreement Respondent signed on April 1, 2013, in which Respondent agreed that he was overissued \$800 in FAP benefits and \$1,000 in SDA benefits because he had failed to report his worker's compensation benefits from January 23, 2012, to June 12, 2012, and acknowledged the responsibility to repay the OI alleged by the Department.

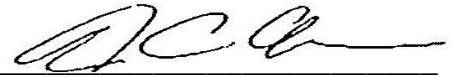
Because Respondent agreed to an OI totaling \$1,800, the Department is entitled to recoup and/or collect this amount.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, concludes that:

1. Respondent did did not commit an IPV by clear and convincing evidence.
2. Respondent did did not receive an OI of program benefits in the amount of \$1,800 from the following program(s) FIP FAP SDA CDC MA.

The Department is ORDERED to initiate recoupment and/or collection procedures for the amount of \$800 under the FAP program and \$1,000 under the SDA program in accordance with Department policy.



Alice C. Elkin
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: January 10, 2014

Date Mailed: January 13, 2014

NOTICE: The law provides that within 30 days of receipt of the above Decision and Order, the Respondent may appeal it to the circuit court for the county in which he/she lives.

ACE/pf

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