

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

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

Reg. No.: 2014-25954  
Issue Nos.: 1001, 3001  
Case No.: ██████████  
Hearing Date: March 6, 2014  
County: Wayne (82-31)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Michael J. Bennane

**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 March 6, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████████

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Claimant's application for Family Independence Program (FIP) and close Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) case?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. On November 18, 2013, Claimant applied for FIP, FAP and MA benefits.
2. On November 18, 2013, the Department sent Claimant a notice of case action, a Change Report and a FAST Mandatory Notice. These documents were returned to the Department as undeliverable to the address given by Claimant to the Department.
3. On December 3, 2013, the Department sent Claimant a second notice of case action informing her that her FIP application had been denied and that her FAP case had been closed.

4. On December 16, 2013, Claimant reapplied online for FIP and FAP benefits. Various documents were sent to Claimant at the address given to the Department during a telephone interview. All of the documents sent by the Department were returned to the Department.
5. On January 8, 2014, the Department sent Claimant a verification checklist at the address Claimant supplied during her telephone interview. The verification checklist was also returned to the Department.
6. On January 23, 2014, the Department denied Claimant's FIP application and closed her FAP case.
7. On February 3, 2014, Claimant requested a hearing to protest the denial of her FIP application and the closure of her FAP case.

### **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).

The Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, PL 104-193, and 42 USC 601 to 679c. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FIP pursuant to MCL 400.10 and 400.57a and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101 to .3131.

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.

At the hearing, Claimant testified that the Postal Service would not deliver to her address because she had not cleared snow leading to her mailbox.

This Administrative Law Judge finds that documents sent to the correct address are assumed under the law to be delivered correctly by the United States Postal Service. This Administrative Law Judge has researched the accumulation of snow and snowfalls in the city of Detroit during the time of the multiple returned documents.

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

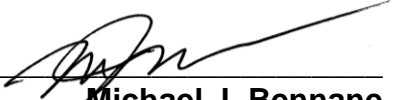
- acted in accordance with Department policy when it denied Claimant's FIP application and closed her FAP case.

- did not act in accordance with Department policy when it .  
 failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it .

**DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's decision is

- AFFIRMED.  
 REVERSED.  
 AFFIRMED IN PART with respect to \_\_\_\_\_ and REVERSED IN PART with respect to \_\_\_\_\_.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Michael J. Bennane**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: March 18, 2014

Date Mailed: March 18, 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

2014-25954/MJB

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

MJB/pf

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