

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

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

Reg. No.: 2014-34745
Issue No.: 1008
Case No.: ██████████
Hearing Date: May 19, 2014
County: Wayne (82-17)

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 May 19, 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 find no good cause to allow Claimant a deferral from the PATH program?

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 Family Independence Program (FIP) benefits
2. Claimant's spouse was deferred from the PATH program allowing her to care for her disabled child.
3. Claimant met with the Department notifying it that his wife was seriously ill and unable to care for her disabled child.
4. On April 10, 2014, the Department held a triage meeting with Claimant. At the triage, Claimant was found to not have good cause.

5. On April 11, 2014, Claimant requested a hearing to protest the Department's finding of no good cause.

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.

At the hearing, the Department argued that, because Claimant's wife was already deferred from PATH to care for her disabled child, a second deferral could not be granted.

The Department was not able to cite the Departmental policy that would not have allowed a second deferral to care for a disabled child. This Administrative Law Judge can find no policy that prohibits a second deferral if the first caregiver is ill.

When Claimant attended the triage on April 10, 2014, he provided the Department with a Medical Needs PATH form completed by Claimant's spouse's physician stating that she was unable to care for her daughter and that Claimant was needed at home to care for his daughter.

This Administrative Law Judge has reviewed Claimant's documentation and finds that good cause was shown. BEM 233A (July 2013).

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 .
- did not act in accordance with Department policy when it found no good cause for Claimant's deferral from the PATH program.
- 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 _____ to _____.

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. Reinstate the Claimant's FIP based on a finding of good cause provided at the triage on April 10, 2014.



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

Date Signed: May 21, 2014

Date Mailed: May 21, 2014

NOTICE OF APPEAL: A party may appeal this Hearing Decision in the circuit court in the county in which he/she resides or has its principal place of business in the State, or the circuit court in Ingham County, within 30 days of the receipt date.

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Hearing Decision from the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) within 30 days of the mailing date of this Hearing Decision, or MAHS may order a rehearing or reconsideration on its own motion.

MAHS may grant a party's Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration 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 party requesting a rehearing or reconsideration 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 this Hearing Decision is mailed.

A written request may be faxed or mailed to MAHS. If submitted by fax, the written request must be faxed to (517) 335-6088 and be labeled as follows:

Attention: MAHS Rehearing/Reconsideration Request

2014-34745/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]
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