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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 14-013305

Issue No.: <u>3005</u>

Case No.: Hearing Date:

County:

March 23, 2015 KALAMAZOO

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Susan C. Burke

HEARING DECISION

Upon a hearing request by the Department of Human Services (Department) to establish an overissuance (OI) of benefits to Respondent, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9, 400.43a, and 24.201, et seq., and Mich Admin Code, R 400.941, and in accordance with 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 three-way telephone hearing was held on Michigan. Participants on behalf of the Department included Recoupment Specialist.

Participants on behalf of Respondent included Respondent.

ISSUE

Did Respondent receive an OI of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

- The Department alleged Respondent received an OI in FAP benefits for the month of December of 2010 due to Respondent's error in not reporting income exceeding the simplified reporting limit.
- During the hearing, the Department did not present for examination any notice to Respondent that she was to report her income exceeding the simplified reporting limit.

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).

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 273. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 to .3015.

In the present case, the Department alleged Respondent received an OI in FAP benefits for the month of December of 2010 due to Respondent's error in not reporting income exceeding the simplified reporting limit. During the hearing, the Department did not present for examination any notice to Respondent that she was to report her income exceeding the simplified reporting limit. Without such notice for examination, it cannot be concluded that any OI was client error. Therefore, any budget showing an OI amount reached due to client error could not be substantiated.

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, finds that the Department did not establish an OI.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department is REVERSED.

Susan C. Burke

Administrative Law Judge for Nick Lyon, Interim Director Department of Human Services

Jusa C. Bruke

Date Signed: 3/27/2015

Date Mailed: 3/27/2015

SCB / hw

NOTICE OF APPEAL: A party may appeal this Hearing Decision in the circuit court in the county in which he/she resides, 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

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

