

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 15-005252  
Issue No.: 1001  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: May 20, 2015  
County: Clare

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Darryl Johnson

**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; and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on May 20, 2015, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) included Family Independence Specialist [REDACTED].

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly close Claimant's Family Independence Program (FIP) benefits?

**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 on-going FIP recipient.
2. On March 18, 2015, the Department received an email from Child Protective Services reporting Claimant's infant child had been removed from her custody and no reunification plan was in place that would allow the child to be returned to Claimant's custody. (Exhibit A Page 1.)
3. On March 20, 2015, the Department mailed to Claimant a Notice of Case Action (NCA) informing Claimant that her FIP would be closing as of April 1, 2015. (Exhibit A Pages 2-6.)
4. The Department received Claimant's hearing request on March 31, 2015.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Department policies are contained in the Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Department of Health and Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT), and Department of Health and 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, Pub. L. No. 104-193, and 42 USC 601 to 679c. The Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers FIP pursuant to 45 CFR 233-260, MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101-.3131.

In this case, Claimant was receiving FIP while she was pregnant. She had a baby on March 12, 2015. As explained in BEM 209 (7/1/13) p 1:

When an individual applies for cash assistance, Bridges determines group composition and builds an eligibility determination group (EDG) for these programs in the following order: FIP, RCA and SDA. Cash assistance is available to eligibility determination groups who meet all of the non-financial and financial requirements that are needed to determine eligibility and calculate benefit amounts.

If a child is placed into foster care, the Department must verify at application and redetermination that there is a plan for the child to be returned to a parent's home. BEM 210 (10/1/14) p 15. As explained in BEM 210 at page 5,

When cash assistance is requested for a dependent child, or a dependent child is a mandatory FIP EDG member, all of the following individuals who live together are in the FIP EDG:

- Dependent Child.
- Child's legal parent(s).
- Child's legal siblings who meet the definition of a dependent child (siblings have at least one legal parent in common).
- Legal parent(s) of the child's siblings.
- Child's legal stepparent, even after death of or divorce from the parent.
- Child's legal stepsiblings, who meet the definition of a dependent child, even after death of or divorce from the parent.

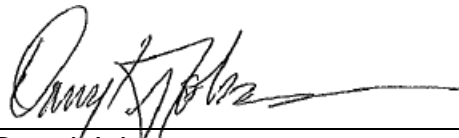
- Child's child.

When her child was removed from the home, Claimant was the only person in the home. She no longer had an eligible group, and therefore, was no longer eligible for FIP.

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 closed Claimant's FIP.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.



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Darryl Johnson  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Nick Lyon, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

Date Signed: **5/26/2015**

Date Mailed: **5/26/2015**

DJ/jaf

**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 copy of the claim or application for appeal must be filed with the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS).

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Hearing Decision from 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 48909-8139

cc:

