

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

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Reg. No.: 15-005561  
Issue No.: 4009  
Case No.: ██████████  
Hearing Date: June 08, 2015  
County: Saginaw

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Alice C. Elkin**

**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; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; and 45 CFR 205.10. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on June 8, 2015, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) included ██████████, Eligibility Specialist.

During the hearing, Claimant waived the time period for the issuance of this decision in order to allow for the submission of additional records. The documents were received, the record closed on July 8, 2015, and the matter is now before the undersigned for a final determination.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly determine that Claimant was not disabled for purposes of the State Disability Assistance (SDA) benefit 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. On October 29, 2014, Claimant submitted an application for public assistance seeking SDA benefits.
2. On March 25, 2015, the Medical Review Team (MRT) found Claimant not disabled (Appendix A, pp. 1-3).
3. On March 27, 2015, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action denying the application for SDA based on MRT's finding of no disability.

4. On April 21, 2015, the Department received Claimant's timely written request for hearing.
5. Claimant alleged physical disabling impairment due to lower back pain, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and migraines.
6. Claimant alleged mental disabling impairment due to severe depression and bipolar disorder.
7. On the date of the hearing, Claimant was [REDACTED] years old with a [REDACTED], birth date; he is [REDACTED] in height and weighs about [REDACTED] pounds.
8. Claimant is a high school graduate and can read, write, and do basic math.
9. Claimant has an employment history of work as a maintenance manager for an apartment complex.
10. Claimant's impairments have lasted, or are expected to last, continuously for a period of 90 days or longer.

### **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), and Department of Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program, which provides financial assistance for disabled persons, was established by 2004 PA 344. The Department administers the SDA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10 *et seq.* and Mich Admin Code, Rules 400.3151 – 400.3180.

A disabled person is eligible for SDA. BEM 261 (July 2014), p. 1. An individual automatically qualifies as disabled for purposes of the SDA program if the individual receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Medical Assistance (MA-P) benefits based on disability or blindness. BEM 261, p. 2. Otherwise, to be considered disabled for SDA purposes, a person must have a physical or mental impairment for at least ninety days which meets federal SSI disability standards, meaning the person is unable to do any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment. BEM 261, pp. 1-2; 20 CFR 416.901; 20 CFR 416.905(a).

To determine whether an individual is disabled for SSI purposes, the trier of fact must apply a five-step sequential evaluation process and consider the following:

- (1) whether the individual is engaged in substantial gainful activity (SGA);
- (2) whether the individual's impairment is severe;
- (3) whether the impairment and its duration meet or equal a listed impairment in Appendix 1 Subpart P of 20 CFR 404;
- (4) whether the individual has the residual functional capacity to perform past relevant work; and
- (5) whether the individual has the residual functional capacity and vocational factors (based on age, education and work experience) to adjust to other work. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(1) and (4); 20 CFR 416.945.

If an individual is found disabled, or not disabled, at any step, a determination or decision is made with no need to evaluate subsequent steps. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(4). If a determination cannot be made that an individual is disabled, or not disabled, at a particular step, the next step is required. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(4).

In general, the individual has the responsibility to establish a disability through the use of competent medical evidence from qualified medical sources such as his or her medical history, clinical/laboratory findings, diagnosis/prescribed treatment, prognosis for recovery and/or medical assessment of ability to do work-related activities or, if a mental disability is alleged, to reason and make appropriate mental adjustments. 20 CFR 416.912(a); 20 CFR 416.913. An individual's subjective pain complaints are not, in and of themselves, sufficient to establish disability. 20 CFR 416.908; 20 CFR 416.929(a). Similarly, conclusory statements by a physician or mental health professional that an individual is disabled or blind, absent supporting medical evidence, are insufficient to establish disability. 20 CFR 416.927(d).

### **Step One**

As outlined above, the first step in determining whether an individual is disabled requires consideration of the individual's current work activity. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(4)(i). If an individual is working and the work is SGA, then the individual must be considered not disabled, regardless of medical condition, age, education, or work experience. 20 CFR 416.920(b); 20 CFR 416.971. SGA means work that involves doing significant and productive physical or mental duties and that is done, or intended to be done, for pay or profit. 20 CFR 416.972.

In this case, Claimant has not engaged in SGA activity during the period for which assistance might be available. Therefore, Claimant is not ineligible under Step 1 and the analysis continues to Step 2.

### **Step Two**

Under Step 2, the severity of an individual's alleged impairment(s) is considered. If the individual does not have a severe medically determinable physical or mental impairment that meets the duration requirement, or a combination of impairments that is severe and meets the duration requirement, the individual is not disabled. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(4)(ii). The duration requirement for SDA means that the impairment is expected to result in

death or has lasted, or is expected to last, for a continuous period of at least 90 days. 20 CFR 416.922; BEM 261, p. 2.

An impairment, or combination of impairments, is severe if it significantly limits an individual's physical or mental ability to do basic work activities regardless of age, education and work experience. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(4)(ii); 20 CFR 416.920(c). Basic work activities mean the abilities and aptitudes necessary to do most jobs. 20 CFR 416.921(b). Examples include (i) physical functions such as walking, standing, sitting, lifting, pushing, pulling, reaching, carrying, or handling; (ii) the capacity to see, hear, and speak; (iii) the ability to understand, carry out, and remember simple instructions; (iv) use of judgment; (v) responding appropriately to supervision, co-workers and usual work situations; and (vi) dealing with changes in a routine work setting. 20 CFR 416.921(b).

The individual bears the burden to present sufficient objective medical evidence to substantiate the alleged disabling impairments. While the Step 2 severity requirement may be employed as an administrative convenience to screen out claims that are totally groundless solely from a medical standpoint, under the *de minimus* standard applied at Step 2, an impairment is severe unless it is only a slight abnormality that minimally affects work ability regardless of age, education and experience. *Higgs v Bowen*, 880 F2d 860, 862-863 (CA 6, 1988), citing *Farris v Sec of Health and Human Services*, 773 F2d 85, 90 n.1 (CA 6, 1985).

In the present case, Claimant alleges physical disabling impairment due to lower back pain, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and migraines and mental disabling impairment due to severe depression and bipolar disorder. The medical evidence presented at the hearing, and in response to the interim order, was reviewed and is summarized below.

A February 25, 2014, psychological examination of Claimant found that Claimant functioned at the average range of intelligence and had a high probability of having a moderate-to-severe substance abuse disorder. The doctor noted that Claimant's greatest barrier to employment was ongoing alcohol consumption and psychological symptoms that resulted in avoidant behavior, decreased motivation, fatigue, low self-worth, and possibly even guilt or shame. The doctor concluded that Claimant's prognosis was guarded to poor for competitive employment at the time but might improve with substance abuse treatment compliance and ongoing abstinence and recovery supports, in conjunction with mental health interventions. (Exhibit A, pp. 119-127, 161-167, 173-179.)

Claimant's record showed urgent care treatment for migraines on July 14, 2014, July 26, 2014, and August 5, 2014, described by the doctor as acute typical uncomplicated migraine without need for further evaluation (Exhibit A, pp. 64-75). Claimant went to follow-up office visits concerning his migraines from July 16, 2014, to August 24, 2014, with pain ranging from 0/10 to 5/10. (Exhibit A, pp. 96-118, 139-156.)

On March 5, 2015, Claimant was examined for a psychiatric/psychological medical report at the Department's request. The doctor noted that Claimant had (i) abnormalities in concentration, general knowledge, memory, judgment, abstract reasoning and calculation tasks; (ii) impaired ability to relate and interact with others, including coworkers and supervisors; (iii) impaired ability to withstand the normal stressors associated with a workplace setting; (iv) slightly impaired ability to understand, recall and complete tasks and to concentrate; and (v) the ability to perform simple tasks with no major limitations but struggled with familiar tasks that have multiple steps and increased complexity. The doctor concluded that Claimant met the diagnostic criteria for persistent depressive disorder, moderate and social anxiety disorder. (Exhibit A, pp. 4-8).

On March 5, 2015, Claimant was examined for a physical medical report at the Department's request. In his physical exam of Claimant, the doctor noted a slight shoulder drop on the right but good range of motion and no restriction in crossing his arms in front or reach over his head or behind his back. Claimant had negative leg-raising signs bilaterally, both sitting and supine, and was able to ambulate toe and heel. He walked with a normal gait. The doctor identified no limitations on Claimant's current abilities, his reflexes, or his range of motion other than slight limitations in his lumbar spine range of motion. The doctor noted that Claimant's headaches and COPD were being medically controlled (Exhibit A, pp. 9-15).

On June 2, 2015, Claimant's primary care physician from [REDACTED] completed a physical capacity assessment indicating that Claimant had pain and decreased range of motion in the back. The doctor indicated that Claimant would be able to occasionally (up to 1/3 of the time) be able to perform sedentary work (up to 10 pounds of force or a negligible amount of force frequently) and occasionally be able to perform light work (up to 20 pounds of force occasionally or up to 10 pounds of force frequently). He could frequently (1/3 to 2/3 of the time) stand or walk and constantly (2/3 or more of the time) sit (Exhibit 1).

On June 17, 2015, Claimant's psychiatrist completed a psychological/psychiatric evaluation listing Claimant's diagnoses as bipolar disorder, generalized anxiety and social phobia. The doctor noted that Claimant's mood was serious, his affect constricted, and his speech normally productive and goal-oriented. He found no thought disorder, psychotic or manic features, or suicidal ideations and fair insight and judgment. The doctor assigned Claimant a global assessment of functioning (GAF) score of 60.

The doctor also completed a mental residual functional capacity assessment, DHS-49-E, regarding Claimant's mental impairments and how they affected his activities. The psychiatrist concluded that Claimant had no, or no significant, limitations regarding his ability to remember locations and work-like procedures; understand and remember one or two-step instructions; understand and remember detailed instructions; carry out

simple one or two step instructions; get along with co-workers or peers without distracting them or exhibiting behavioral extremes; maintain socially appropriate behavior and adhere to basic standards of neatness and cleanliness; travel in unfamiliar places or use public transportation; and set realistic goals or make plans independently of others; perform activities within a schedule, maintain regular attendance, and be punctual within customary tolerances; sustain an ordinary routine without supervision; make simple work-related decision; and be aware of normal hazards and take appropriate precautions. The psychiatrist concluded that Claimant had moderate limitations regarding his ability to carry out detailed instructions; ask simple questions or request assistance; and accept instructions and respond appropriately to criticisms from supervisors. The psychiatrist concluded that Claimant had marked limitations regarding his ability to maintain attention and concentration for extended periods; work in coordination with or proximity of others without being distracted by them; complete a normal workday and worksheet without interruptions from psychologically based symptoms and perform at a consistent pace without an unreasonable number and length of rest periods; interact appropriately with the general public; and respond appropriately to change in the work setting. Handwritten comments indicated Claimant had significant anxiety resulting in panic attacks; social withdrawal and difficulty concentrating; and excessive ongoing worry and tension (Exhibit 2).

In consideration of the de minimus standard necessary to establish a severe impairment under Step 2, the foregoing medical evidence is sufficient to establish that Claimant suffers from severe impairments that have lasted or are expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 90 days. Therefore, Claimant has satisfied the requirements under Step 2, and the analysis will proceed to Step 3.

### **Step Three**

Step 3 of the sequential analysis of a disability claim requires a determination if the individual's impairment, or combination of impairments, is listed in Appendix 1 of Subpart P of 20 CFR, Part 404. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(4)(iii). If an individual's impairment, or combination of impairments, is of a severity to meet or medically equal the criteria of a listing and meets the duration requirement (20 CFR 416.909), the individual is disabled. If not, the analysis proceeds to the next step.

Based on the medical evidence presented, listings 1.04 (disorders of the spine), 3.02 (chronic pulmonary insufficiency), 11.00 (neurological), 12.04 (affective disorders), and 12.06 (anxiety-related disorders) were reviewed. Claimant's medical record in this case is not sufficient to support a finding that his impairments meet, or equal the severity of, a listing under of these listings. Because Claimant's impairments are insufficient to meet, or to equal, the severity of a listing, Claimant is not disabled under Step 3 and the analysis continues to Step 4.

### **Residual Functional Capacity**

If an individual's impairment does not meet or equal a listed impairment under Step 3, before proceeding to Step 4, the individual's residual functional capacity (RFC) is

assessed. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(4); 20 CFR 416.945. Impairments, and any related symptoms, may cause physical and mental limitations that affect what a person can do in a work setting. 20 CFR 416.945(a)(1). RFC is the most an individual can do, based on all relevant evidence, despite the limitations from the impairment(s) and takes into consideration an individual's ability to meet the physical, mental, sensory and other requirements of work. 20 CFR 416.945(a)(1), (4). The RFC takes into consideration the total limiting effects of all impairments, including those that are not severe. 20 CFR 416.945(e).

RFC is assessed based on all relevant medical and other evidence such as statements provided by medical sources, whether or not they are addressed on formal medical examinations, and descriptions and observations of the limitations from impairment(s) provided by the individual or other persons. 20 CFR 416.945(a)(3). This includes consideration of (1) the location/duration/frequency/intensity of an applicant's pain; (2) the type/dosage/effectiveness/side effects of any medication the applicants takes to relieve pain; (3) any treatment other than pain medication that the applicant has received to relieve pain; and (4) the effect of the applicant's pain on his or her ability to do basic work activities. 20 CFR 416.929(c)(3). The applicant's pain must be assessed to determine the extent of his or her functional limitation(s) in light of the objective medical evidence presented. 20 CFR 416.929(c)(2).

Limitations can be exertional, nonexertional, or a combination of both. 20 CFR 416.969a. If the limitations and restrictions imposed by the individual's impairment(s) and related symptoms, such as pain, affect only the ability to meet the strength demands of jobs (i.e., sitting, standing, walking, lifting, carrying, pushing, and pulling), the individual is considered to have only exertional limitations. 20 CFR 416.969a(b). To determine the exertional requirements, or physical demands, of work in the national economy, jobs are classified as sedentary, light, medium, heavy, and very heavy. 20 CFR 416.967; 20 CFR 416.969a(a).

Sedentary work.

Sedentary work involves lifting no more than 10 pounds at a time and occasionally lifting or carrying articles like docket files, ledgers, and small tools. Although a sedentary job is defined as one which involves sitting, a certain amount of walking and standing is often necessary in carrying out job duties. Jobs are sedentary if walking and standing are required occasionally and other sedentary criteria are met.

Light work.

Light work involves lifting no more than 20 pounds at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing up to 10 pounds. Even though the weight lifted may be very little, a job is in this category when it requires a good deal of walking or standing, or when it involves sitting most of the time with some pushing and pulling of arm or leg controls. To be considered capable of performing a full or wide range of light work, [an individual] must have the ability to do substantially all of these activities. If someone can do light work, . . . he or she can also do sedentary work, unless there are additional limiting factors such as loss of fine dexterity or inability to sit for long periods of time.

Medium work.

Medium work involves lifting no more than 50 pounds at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing up to 25 pounds. If someone can do medium work, . . . he or she can also do sedentary and light work.

Heavy work.

Heavy work involves lifting no more than 100 pounds at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing up to 50 pounds. If someone can do heavy work, . . . he or she can also do medium, light, and sedentary work.

Very heavy work.

Very heavy work involves lifting objects weighing more than 100 pounds at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing 50 pounds or more. If someone can do very heavy work, . . . he or she can also do heavy, medium, light, and sedentary work. 20 CFR 416.967.

If an individual has limitations or restrictions that affect the ability to meet demands of jobs **other than** strength, or exertional, demands, the individual is considered to have only nonexertional limitations or restrictions. 20 CFR 416.969a(a) and (c). Examples of non-exertional limitations or restrictions include difficulty functioning due to nervousness, anxiousness, or depression; difficulty maintaining attention or concentration; difficulty understanding or remembering detailed instructions; difficulty in seeing or hearing; difficulty tolerating some physical feature(s) of certain work settings (i.e., can't tolerate dust or fumes); or difficulty performing the manipulative or postural functions of some work such as reaching, handling, stooping, climbing, crawling, or crouching. 20 CFR 416.969a(c)(1)(i) – (vi).

In this case, Claimant alleges both exertional and nonexertional limitations due to his medical condition. Claimant testified that he could not walk more than ¼ block before experiencing back pain and shortness of breath, could sit for an hour to one and a-half hours before needing to stretch, could lift no more than 10 pounds, could not bend or squat, and could not do stairs. He testified that he lived on his own and did his own shopping and chores.

Claimant's doctor completed a physical capacities assessment for purposes of the Michigan Rehabilitation Services and indicated that Claimant had back pain with decreased range of motion in the back but he could sit constantly (2/3 or more of the time) and stand or walk frequently (1/3 to 2/3 of the time) and lift up to 20 pounds of force occasionally. The doctor also limited Claimant from ever squatting or climbing (Exhibit 1). There is also evidence that Claimant sought treatment for migraines.

With respect to his physical limitations, based on Claimant's testimony that he did his own chores and the medical evidence presented, Claimant maintains the exertional RFC to perform light work as defined by 20 CFR 416.967(b).

Claimant also alleged nonexertional limitations due to his mental condition. For mental disorders, functional limitation(s) is assessed based upon the extent to which the impairment(s) interferes with an individual's ability to function independently,



appropriately, effectively, and on a sustained basis. *Id.*; 20 CFR 416.920a(c)(2). Chronic mental disorders, structured settings, medication, and other treatment and the effect on the overall degree of functionality are considered. 20 CFR 416.920a(c)(1). In addition, four broad functional areas (activities of daily living; social functioning; concentration, persistence or pace; and episodes of decompensation) are considered when determining an individual's degree of mental functional limitation. 20 CFR 416.920a(c)(3). The degree of limitation for the first three functional areas is rated by a five point scale: none, mild, moderate, marked, and extreme. 20 CFR 416.920a(c)(4). A four point scale (none, one or two, three, four or more) is used to rate the degree of limitation in the fourth functional area. *Id.* The last point on each scale represents a degree of limitation that is incompatible with the ability to do any gainful activity. *Id.*

In this case, Claimant testified that he suffered from anxiety attacks, and tried to limit his exposure to crowds, he had issues with concentration and memory and occasional crying spells. He indicated that his medication made him sleepy. Based on the DHS-49E completed on June 17, 2015, Claimant has no limitations pertaining to understanding and memory, moderate limitations in his sustained concentration and persistence, and mild limitation on his social functioning. Based on his testimony, Claimant was capable of his activities of daily living with only mild limitations.

Claimant's exertional and nonexertional RFC is considered at both steps four and five. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(4), (f) and (g).

#### **Step Four**

Step 4 in analyzing a disability claim requires an assessment of Claimant's RFC and past relevant employment. 20 CFR 416.920(a)(4)(iv). Past relevant work is work that has been performed within the past 15 years that was SGA and that lasted long enough for the individual to learn the position. 20 CFR 416.960(b)(1). An individual who has the RFC to meet the physical and mental demands of work done in the past is not disabled. *Id.*; 20 CFR 416.960(b)(3); 20 CFR 416.920. Vocational factors of age, education, and work experience, and whether the past relevant employment exists in significant numbers in the national economy are **not** considered. 20 CFR 416.960(b)(3).

As determined in the RFC analysis above, Claimant is limited to light work activities and has mild to moderate limitations in his mental capacity to perform basic work activities. Claimant's work history in the 15 years prior to the application consists of work as a maintenance manager for an apartment complex (heavy, unskilled). In light of the entire record and Claimant's RFC, particularly his exertional RFC limiting him to light work, it is found that Claimant is unable to perform past relevant work. Accordingly, Claimant cannot be found disabled, or not disabled, at Step 4 and the assessment continues to Step 5.

### **Step 5**

In Step 5, an assessment of Claimant's RFC and age, education, and work experience is considered to determine whether an adjustment to other work can be made. 20 CFR 416.920(4)(v). If the individual can adjust to other work, then there is no disability. Disability is found if an individual is unable to adjust to other work.

At this point in the analysis, the burden shifts from Claimant to the Department to present proof that Claimant has the RFC to obtain and maintain substantial gainful employment. 20 CFR 416.960(2); *Richardson v Sec of Health and Human Services*, 735 F2d 962, 964 (CA 6, 1984). While a vocational expert is not required, a finding supported by substantial evidence that the individual has the vocational qualifications to perform specific jobs is needed to meet the burden. *O'Banner v Sec of Health and Human Services*, 587 F2d 321, 323 (CA 6, 1978).

When the impairment(s) and related symptoms, such as pain, only affect the ability to perform the exertional aspects of work-related activities, Medical-Vocational guidelines found at 20 CFR Subpart P, Appendix 2, may be used to satisfy the burden of proving that the individual can perform specific jobs in the national economy. *Heckler v Campbell*, 461 US 458, 467 (1983); *Kirk v Secretary*, 667 F2d 524, 529 (CA 6, 1981) *cert den* 461 US 957 (1983). However, if the impairment(s) and related symptoms, such as pain, only affect the ability to perform the non-exertional aspects of work-related activities, the rules in Appendix 2 do not direct factual conclusions of disabled or not disabled. 20 CFR 416.969a(c)(2). When a person has a combination of exertional and nonexertional limitations or restrictions, the rules pertaining to the strength limitations provide a framework to guide the disability determination **unless** there is a rule that directs a conclusion that the individual is disabled based upon strength limitations. 20 CFR 416.969a(d).

In this case, Claimant applied for SDA just 6 days prior to his [REDACTED] birthday and at the time of hearing, he was [REDACTED] years old and, thus, considered to be a closely approaching retirement age for purposes of Appendix 2. He is a high school graduate. He has a history of unskilled work experience. As discussed above, Claimant maintains the RFC for work activities on a regular and continuing basis to meet the physical demands to perform light work activities and has mild to moderate limitations on his mental ability to perform work activities. Based on Claimant's age, education, and work experience, the Medical-Vocational Guidelines lead to a finding that Claimant is disabled based on his exertional limitations. Therefore, after review of the entire record, including Claimant's testimony, and in consideration of Claimant's age, education, work experience, and exertional RFC, Claimant is found disabled at Step 5 for purposes of SDA benefit program.

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 Claimant **disabled** for purposes of the SDA benefit program.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's determination is **REVERSED**.

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. Process Claimant's October 29, 2014, SDA application to determine if all the other non-medical criteria are satisfied and notify Claimant of its determination;
2. Supplement Claimant for lost benefits, if any, that Claimant was entitled to receive if otherwise eligible and qualified;
3. Review Claimant's continued eligibility in December 2015.



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**Alice C. Elkin**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Nick Lyon, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

Date Signed: **7/17/2015**

Date Mailed: **7/17/2015**

ACE / tlf

**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.

