

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 15-002644
Issue No.: 2002, 3002
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: March 24, 2015
County: Oakland-District 3

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Kevin Scully

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, telephone hearing was held on March 24, 2015, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED] Participants on behalf of the Department included [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close Medical Assistance (MA) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits for failure to provide the Department with information necessary to determine the Claimant's eligibility to receive 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. The Claimant was an ongoing Medical Assistance (MA) recipient and applied for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.
2. On February 4, 2015, the Department sent the Claimant a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503) requesting verification of her savings and checking accounts by February 17, 2015.
3. On February 11, 2015, the Department received a partially legible copy of a checking account statement from the Claimant.
4. On February 17, 2015, the Department notified that it would close her Food Assistance Program (FAP) and Medical Assistance (MA) benefits.
5. On February 11, 2015, the Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing protesting the closure of Medical Assistance (MA) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.

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 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.

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5; 42 USC 1315; the Affordable Care Act of 2010, the collective term for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152; and 42 CFR 430.10-.25. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

Clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility and this includes the completion of necessary forms. Department of Human Services Bridges Assistance Manual (BAM) 105 (October 1, 2014), p 5.

Verification means documentation or other evidence to establish the accuracy of the client's verbal or written statements. Verification is usually required at application/redetermination and for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level when it is required by policy, required as a local office option, or information regarding an eligibility factor is unclear, inconsistent, incomplete, or contradictory. The Department uses documents, collateral contacts, or home calls to verify information. A collateral contact is a direct contact with a person, organization, or agency to verify information from the client. When documentation is not available, or clarification is needed, collateral contact may be necessary. Department of Human Services Bridges Assistance Manual (BAM) 130 (October 1, 2014), pp 1-9.

Assets means cash, any other personal property and real property. Real property is land and objects affixed to the land such as buildings, trees and fences. Condominiums are real property. Personal property is any item subject to ownership that is not real property. Countable assets cannot exceed the applicable asset limit. An asset is countable if it meets the availability tests and is not excluded. Available means that someone in the asset group has the legal right to use or dispose of the asset. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 400 (October 1, 2014), pp 1-7.

The Claimant was an ongoing Medical Assistance (MA) recipient and applied for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits. The Department sent the Claimant a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503) requesting verification of the Claimant's savings and checking accounts. On February 11, 2015, the Department received a partially legible copy of a

checking account statement from the Claimant that does not have the Claimant's name on it. The Department did not receive a copy the savings account statement. The checking account statement references a transfer to a savings account. On February 11, 2015, the Department notified the Claimant that it would close her Food Assistance Program (FAP) and Medical Assistance (MA) benefits for failure to provide the Department with information necessary to determine her eligibility to receive benefits.


The Claimant argued that she had provided the Department with sufficient verification material. The Claimant argued that the Department's requests were an invasion of privacy.

The Department required verification of the Claimant's bank accounts to verify whether her assets meet the policy limits to receive benefits and the Department presented substantial evidence that the Claimant failed to make a reasonable effort to provide the required information.

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 the Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) and Medical Assistance (MA) benefits.

DECISION AND ORDER

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



Kevin Scully
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, Acting DHS Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: **3/24/2015**

Date Mailed: **3/24/2015**

KS/las

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 48909-8139

cc:

