

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 15-004472  
Issue No.: 4009  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: May 6, 2015  
County: Calhoun

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Vicki Armstrong

**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 May 6, 2015, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included his mother, [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) included Eligibility Specialist [REDACTED] and Eligibility Specialist [REDACTED].

**ISSUE**

Whether the Department properly determined 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 December 12, 2014, Claimant filed an application for SDA benefits alleging disability.
- (2) On March 9, 2015, the Medical Review Team (MRT) denied Claimant's application for SDA indicating that Claimant's impairments will not prevent employment for 90 days or more.
- (3) On March 9, 2015, the Department sent Claimant notice that his SDA application was denied.
- (4) On March 13, 2015, Claimant filed a request for a hearing to contest the Department's negative action.
- (5) Claimant has a history of congestive heart failure, non-ischemic cardiomyopathy, persistent atrial fibrillation, seizures, and a hernia.

- (6) Claimant is a 40 year old man whose birthday is [REDACTED]. Claimant is 6'2" tall and weighs 180 lbs. Claimant completed high school through special education. Claimant last worked in 2014.

### **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 person is considered disabled for SDA purposes if the person has a physical or mental impairment which meets federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability standards for at least ninety days. Receipt of SSI benefits based on disability or blindness, or the receipt of MA benefits based on disability or blindness, automatically qualifies an individual as disabled for purposes of the SDA program.

Current legislative amendments to the Act delineate eligibility criteria as implemented by department policy set forth in program manuals. 2004 PA 344, Sec. 604, establishes the State Disability Assistance program. It reads in part:

Sec. 604 (1) The department shall operate a state disability assistance program. Except as provided in subsection (3), persons eligible for this program shall include needy citizens of the United States or aliens exempt from the Supplemental Security Income citizenship requirement who are at least 18 years of age or emancipated minors meeting one or more of the following requirements:

(b) A person with a physical or mental impairment which meets federal SSI disability standards, except that the minimum duration of the disability shall be 90 days. Substance abuse alone is not defined as a basis for eligibility.

Specifically, this Act provides minimal cash assistance to individuals with some type of severe, temporary disability which prevents him or her from engaging in substantial gainful work activity for at least ninety (90) days.

On [REDACTED], Claimant's treating physician submitted a letter to the Department indicating Claimant was under his care and diagnosed with non-ischemic cardiomyopathy and persistent atrial fibrillation since May, 2014. The physician noted cardioversion had been tried multiple times to restore a normal heart rhythm without success. Claimant's ejection fraction had only recovered from 15-20% to 30% systolic function based on a repeat echocardiogram done in November, 2014. The physician

opined that due to Claimant's congestive heart failure symptoms, Claimant is precluded from working in his usual capacity as a factory worker.

Claimant credibly testified that he has a limited tolerance for physical activities and is unable to stand or sit for lengthy periods of time. Claimant is now using a walker not only to ambulate, but to help prevent him from falling due to shortness of breath, dizziness, and his legs giving out.

Based on Claimant's medical records and testimony, Claimant meets or equals Listing 4.02(A), Chronic Heart Failure and Listing 4.05, Recurrent Arrhythmias.

Therefore, 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.

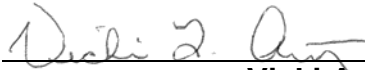
### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides the Department erred in determining Claimant is not currently disabled for SDA eligibility purposes.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is **REVERSED**, and it is ORDERED that:

1. The Department shall process Claimant's December 12, 2014, SDA application, and shall award him all the benefits he may be entitled to receive, as long as he meets the remaining financial and non-financial eligibility factors.
2. The Department shall review Claimant's medical condition for improvement in May, 2016, unless his Social Security Administration disability status is approved by that time.
3. The Department shall obtain updated medical evidence from Claimant's treating physicians, physical therapists, pain clinic notes, etc. regarding his continued treatment, progress and prognosis at review, in particular from his primary care physician and treating psychiatrist.

It is **SO ORDERED**.

  
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**Vicki Armstrong**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Nick Lyon, Director  
Department of Health and Human  
Services

Date Signed: **5/8/2015**

Date Mailed: **5/8/2015**

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**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:

