

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 15-006278  
Issue No.: 4009  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: July 1, 2015  
County: Clare

**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 July 1, 2015, from Lansing, Michigan. Claimant personally appeared and testified. Participants on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) included 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 18, 2014, Claimant filed an application for SDA benefits alleging disability.
2. On March 25, 2015, the Medical Review Team (MRT) denied Claimant's SDA application for lack of duration.
3. On March 31, 2015, the Department sent Claimant notice that his application for SDA had been denied.
4. On April 22, 2015, Claimant filed a request for a hearing to contest the Department's negative action.
5. Claimant was appealing the denial of Social Security disability benefits at the time of the hearing.

6. Claimant is a 31 year old man whose birthday is [REDACTED]. Claimant is 5'0" tall and weighs 134 lbs.
7. Claimant does not have an alcohol, nicotine or drug history.
8. Claimant does not have a driver's license due to a car accident at the age of eighteen.
9. Claimant has a high school education through special education with a fifth grade reading level.
10. Claimant has never worked.
11. Claimant alleges disability on the basis of epilepsy, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, migraines, learning disorder, gastroesophageal reflux disease, back pain, posttraumatic stress disorder, small bowel obstruction, depression, hypertension, gastroenteritis, mental retardation, adjustment disorder, obstructive sleep apnea, asthma, renal cyst, history of acute kidney injury and restless leg syndrome.

### **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 Health and 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.

In this case, Claimant underwent an independent psychiatric evaluation on [REDACTED], on behalf of the Department. The psychologist opined that Claimant is likely to understand, retain, and follow simple instructions. The psychologist noted that Claimant can be expected to adjust to reasonable changes in his environment. Prognosis is guarded. Claimant reported being unable to work primarily due to seizure activity. Claimant was diagnosed with adjustment disorder with mixed anxiety and depression. The psychiatrist completed a Mental Residual Functional Capacity Assessment and opined Claimant is not significantly limited in understanding and memory, sustained concentration and persistence, social interaction or adaptation.

A review of Claimant's medical records show multiple emergency department visits in November and December, 2014, for seizures, migraines and back pain. Each time Claimant was discharged in stable condition without restrictions.

Claimant testified that he can do his own housekeeping, grocery shopping, except for making change, and cook his own meals. Claimant stated that once he helps his girlfriend get her daughter off to school and his girlfriend goes to work, he plays on Play Station all day.

Claimant has not presented the required competent, material, and substantial evidence which would support a finding that Claimant has an impairment or combination of impairments which would significantly limit the physical or mental ability to do basic work activities. 20 CFR 416.920(c). Although Claimant has cited medical problems, the clinical documentation submitted by Claimant is not sufficient to establish a finding that Claimant is disabled. There is no objective medical evidence to substantiate Claimant's claim that the alleged impairment(s) are severe enough to reach the criteria and definition of disabled.

Therefore, this Administrative Law Judge finds that the objective medical evidence on the record does establish that Claimant has the residual functional capacity to perform other work. As a result, Claimant is disqualified from receiving disability at Step 5 based upon the fact that the objective medical evidence on the record shows he can perform light work. Under the Medical-Vocational guidelines, a younger individual age 18 - 49

(Claimant is 31 years of age), with a high school education and an unskilled work history is not considered disabled pursuant to Medical-Vocational Rule 202.20. Accordingly, Claimant is not disabled for the purposes of the Medical Assistance disability (MA-P) program.

The Department's Bridges Eligibility Manual contains the following policy statements and instructions for caseworkers regarding the State Disability Assistance program: to receive State Disability Assistance, a person must be disabled, caring for a disabled person or age 65 or older. BEM, Item 261, p 1. Because Claimant does not meet the definition of disabled under the MA-P program and because the evidence of record does not establish that Claimant is unable to work for a period exceeding 90 days, Claimant does not meet the disability criteria for State Disability Assistance benefits either.


The Department has established by the necessary competent, material and substantial evidence on the record that it was acting in compliance with department policy when it determined that Claimant was not eligible to receive State Disability Assistance.

#### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department has appropriately established on the record that it was acting in compliance with Department policy when it denied Claimant's application for State Disability Assistance benefits.

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

**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: **7/21/2015**

Date Mailed: **7/21/2015**

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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:

