

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

MAHS Reg. No.: 15-010537
Issue No.: BVL
Agency Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: November 25, 2015
County: Special Processing Office

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Christian Gardocki

HEARING DECISION

Petitioner filed a request for a hearing pursuant to a United States district court order issued on January 9, 2015 which allowed the pursuit of potential benefit recovery related to a criminal justice disqualification imposed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (Department). This matter is now before the undersigned administrative law judge.

After due notice, a 3-way telephone hearing was held on November 25, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants included the above-named Petitioner. Participants on behalf of the Department included [REDACTED], specialist.

ISSUE

The issue is whether the Department deny, terminate, or reduce Petitioner's eligibility for the Family Independence Program (FIP), State Disability Assistance Program (SDA), Refugee Assistance Program (RAP), or Child Development and Care (CDC) due to fugitive felon status of Petitioner or a member of Petitioner's group during the timeframe of December 30, 2012 through January 9, 2015.

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 Department did not deny, terminate, or reduce Petitioner's cash assistance or CDC eligibility during the timeframe from December 30, 2012 to January 9, 2015.
2. In *Barry v Corrigan*, No. 13-cv-13185, 2015 WL 136238 (ED Mich Jan 9, 2015), and its March 31, 2015 Order Regarding...Implementation of the Court's January 9, 2015 Order, the Court set forth a process by which applicants or beneficiaries of FIP/SDA/RAP/CDC benefits during the timeframe from December 30, 2012 to January 9, 2015 could seek restoration of the benefits through an administrative hearing process. The process also required that the Department send notices to

applicants and beneficiaries that were denied, terminated, or reduced FIP, SDA, RAP, or CDC benefits. The notices were to include a Barry v. Lyon Request for Hearing Form which must be used to request an administrative hearing.

3. On May 22, 2015, Petitioner timely filed a Barry v. Lyon Request for Hearing Form seeking restoration of benefits due to the Department denying, terminating, or reducing FIP, SDA, RAP, or CDC benefits during the timeframe from December 30, 2012 to January 9, 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.

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b. The Department of Health and Human Services (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers the SDA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3151-.3180.

The Refugee Assistance Program (RAP) program is established under P.L. 106-386 of 2000, Section 107, and administered by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to 45 CFR 400.45-.69 and 401.12 and MCL 400.10.

The Child Development and Care (CDC) program is established by Titles IVA, IVE and XX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 601-619, 670-679c, and 1397-1397m-5; the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990, PL 101-508, 42 USC 9858 to 9858q; and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, PL 104-193. The program is implemented by 45 CFR 98.1-99.33. The Department administers the program pursuant to MCL 400.10 and provides services to adults and children pursuant to MCL 400.14(1) and Mich Admin Code, R 400.5001-.5020.

Petitioner requested a hearing alleging the Department improperly imposed a criminal justice disqualification. Petitioner's hearing request did not check whether cash assistance or CDC eligibility was affected. The hearing request was submitted pursuant to a federal lawsuit.

In *Barry v Corrigan*, No. 13-cv-13185, 2015 WL 136238 (ED Mich Jan 9, 2015), the Court concluded that notices the Department sent clients and applicants from December 30, 2012 to January 9, 2015 denying, terminating, or reducing FIP, SDA, RAP, or CDC benefits due to fugitive felon disqualification violated procedural due process under the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Court's March 31, 2015 Order Regarding...Implementation of the Court's January 9, 2015 Order set forth a process for which applicants or beneficiaries of FIP, SDA, RAP, or CDC benefits from December 30, 2012 to January 9, 2015 could seek restoration of the benefits through an administrative hearing process if those benefits were affected due to fugitive felon disqualification. Petitioner sought restoration of benefits through this administrative hearing process. This Administrative Law Judge is obligated to determine whether Petitioner's benefits were affected due to fugitive felon disqualification pursuant to the Court's March 31, 2015 Order Regarding...Implementation of the Court's January 9, 2015 Order.

Petitioner testified he appeared for the hearing intending to dispute a Food Assistance Program (FAP) disqualification. MDHHS testimony indicated that FAP-related fugitive felon disqualifications will be addressed at an unspecified later time.

The hearing associated with this decision was designed with the narrow of jurisdiction of addressing fugitive felon disqualifications concerning only cash or CDC benefits. Department testified that a case history search did not indicate any disqualifications pertaining to Petitioner's cash assistance or CDC eligibility. Petitioner testimony conceded he had no dispute concerning his cash assistance or CDC eligibility. Based on the presented evidence, it is found that during the timeframe of December 30, 2012 through January 9, 2015, Petitioner's cash assistance and/or CDC eligibility was not improperly impacted by a fugitive felon disqualification.

DECISION

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, determines that the Department DID NOT deny, terminate or reduce Petitioner's FIP, SDA, RAP, SDA, and/or CDC eligibility due to fugitive felon status of Petitioner or a member of Petitioner's group during the timeframe of December 30, 2012 through January 9, 2015.



Christian Gardocki

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

Date Signed: November 25, 2015
Date Mailed: November 25, 2015

CG/tm

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.

cc:

