

**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.: 15-011083  
Issue No.: 2001  
Case No.: ██████████  
Hearing Date: August 17, 2015  
County: Washtenaw (District 20)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Zainab Baydoun**

**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; and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on August 17, 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 and ██████████ ██████████, Family Independence Manager.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Claimant's application for Medical Assistance (MA) benefits on the basis that she failed to return verification of her income?

**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 April 3, 2015, Claimant submitted an application for FAP benefits.
2. On April 7, 2015, the Department sent Claimant a Verification Checklist (VCL) instructing her to submit proof of her income by April 17, 2015. (Exhibit A, pp. 13-14)
3. Claimant did not submit proof of her income prior to requesting a hearing.
4. On May 4, 2015, the Department sent Claimant a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice informing her that she was ineligible for MA benefits and that

her application was denied on the basis that verification of her income was not returned. (Exhibit A, pp. 15-18)

5. On June 12, 2015, Claimant requested a hearing disputing the Department's actions and submitted proof of her income.

### **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 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 Department of Human Services) administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

Additionally, verification is usually required at application/redetermination and for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level. BAM 130 (October 2014), p.1. To request verification of information, the Department sends a verification checklist (VCL) which tells the client what verification is required, how to obtain it, and the due date. BAM 130, p. 3. Although the client must obtain the required verification, the Department must assist if a client needs and requests help. If neither the client nor the Department can obtain the verification despite a reasonable effort, the Department is to use the best available information; and if no evidence is available, the Department is to use its best judgment. BAM 130, p. 3.

With respect to MA cases, clients are given 10 calendar days to provide the verifications requested by the Department. BAM 130, pp.7-8. If the client cannot provide the verification despite a reasonable effort, the Department is to extend the time limit to submit the verifications up to two times. BAM 130, p. 7-8. Extensions may be granted when the client or authorized representative make a request, when the need for the extension and the reasonable efforts taken to obtain the verifications are documented, and every effort by the Department was made to assist the client in obtaining the verifications. BAM 130, p. 7. Verifications are considered to be timely if received by the date they are due. BAM 130, p.7-8. The Department will send a negative action notice when the client indicates refusal to provide a verification, or the time period given has elapsed. BAM 130, p. 8.

In this case, the Department denied Claimant's application for MA benefits because she did not submit proof of her income by the April 17, 2015, due date listed on the VCL. The Department stated that it did not receive any request for extension to submit the verifications prior to issuing the Health Care Coverage Determination Notice denying the application. The Department stated that it did not receive proof of Claimant's income until June 12, 2015, when Claimant submitted her hearing request.

At the hearing, Claimant testified that she was out of town from April 4, 2015, to April 22, 2015. Claimant stated that when she returned home, she received the VCL but the April 17, 2015, due date had passed. Claimant stated that she contacted her case worker and left messages explaining that she had been out of town and inquiring about how Claimant should proceed since she had been away, however, her assigned case worker did not respond. Claimant also confirmed that she did not submit proof of her income upon returning home and receipt of the VCL. Claimant stated that she did not submit proof of her income prior to receiving the May 4, 2015, Health Care Coverage Determination Notice because she was waiting for a return phone call from her case worker. It was established that Claimant did not submit proof of her income until June 12, 2015. Claimant did not establish that she requested an extension to submit the verifications as required by policy.

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 denied Claimant's application for MA benefits on the basis that she did not return proof of her income. Claimant was informed that she is entitled to submit a new application for MA benefits and have her eligibility determined.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

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



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

Date Signed: **8/21/2015**

Date Mailed: **8/21/2015**

ZB / 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 copy of the claim or application for appeal must be filed with the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS).

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Hearing Decision from 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: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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