

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



MAHS Reg. No.: 15-017601
Issue No.: ESO
Agency Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: January 12, 2016
County: DHHS Special
Processing Office

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Colleen Lack

HEARING DECISION

Pursuant to a September 8, 2014 federal lawsuit, the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) issued notices to Medicaid applicants who were potentially denied full Medicaid coverage based on immigration status between January 2014 and May 2015. The notice included information about how to request a hearing. Petitioner filed a request for a hearing and accordingly this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to Michigan Administrative Hearing Rules (R 792.10101 – R 792.11903) and the Administrative Procedures Act, 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 *et seq.*

After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on January 12, 2016, from Lansing, Michigan. [REDACTED], the Petitioner, appeared on his own behalf. The Department was represented by [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's immigration status or citizenship when determining Medicaid (MA) eligibility?

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 September 29, 2014, Petitioner applied for MA. (Department Exhibit A, pp. 4-11)
2. On September 29, 2014, MA application Petitioner marked that he was a United States citizen or national. (Department Exhibit A, p. 6)
3. Petitioner's application was initially approved for Emergency Services Only (ESO) MA coverage.

4. On August 28, 2015, Petitioner filed a hearing request contesting the Department's determination. (Department Exhibit A, p. 2)
5. Petitioner provided copies of his passport, social security card, and birth certificate to verify that he is a U.S. citizen. (Department Exhibit A, pp. 13-14)
6. The Department subsequently determined that Petitioner meets the citizenship requirement.
7. On September 29, 2015, a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice was issued to Petitioner stating the ESO coverage was overridden to full MA coverage for September 2014 through November 2014 and he is eligible for ongoing full MA coverage for December 1, 2014 and ongoing. (Department Exhibit A, pp. 15-16)

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), Department of Health and Human Services Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Related Eligibility Manual (MREM), 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 administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

In this case, Petitioner requested a hearing disputing the denial of full MA coverage. (Department Exhibit A, p. 2)

To be eligible for full MA coverage a person must be a U.S. citizen or an alien admitted to the U.S. under a specific immigration status. BEM 225 (July 1, 2014), p. 2.

For MA, an individual under specific immigration statuses is limited to emergency services for the first five years in the U.S. (BEM 225, pp. 7-8)

On September 29, 2014, MA application Petitioner marked that he was a United States citizen or U.S. National. (Department Exhibit A, p. 6) However, Petitioner's application was initially approved for Emergency Services Only (ESO) MA coverage.

On August 28, 2015, Petitioner filed a hearing request contesting the Department's determination. (Department Exhibit A, p. 2) Petitioner provided copies of his passport, social security card, and birth certificate to verify that he is a U.S. citizen. (Department Exhibit A, pp. 13-14)

The Department subsequently determined that Petitioner meets the citizenship requirement. On September 29, 2015, a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice was issued to Petitioner stating the ESO coverage was overridden to full MA coverage for September 2014 through November 2014 and he is eligible for ongoing full MA coverage for December 1, 2014 and ongoing. (Department Exhibit A, pp. 15-16))

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 has now properly determined Petitioner's immigration status or citizenship when determining MA eligibility.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's determination about MA eligibility based on immigration status is **AFFIRMED**.



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

Date Mailed: **1/25/2016**

CL/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.

cc:

