

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



MAHS Reg. No.: 15-019844  
Issue No.: ESO  
Agency Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: January 05, 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 5, 2016, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by [REDACTED], Home Manager. 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 March 28, 2014 Petitioner applied for MA. (Department Exhibit A, pp. 4-10)
2. On March 28, 2014, MA application, it was marked that Petitioner was not a United States citizen and there was no answer to the question asking if he had eligible immigration status. (Department Exhibit A, p. 6)
3. Petitioner's application was initially approved for Emergency Services Only (ESO) MA coverage.

4. On August 26, 2015, a hearing request was filed on Petitioner's behalf stating that Petitioner is a U.S. citizen. (Department Exhibit A, p. 2)
5. The Department was able to verify Petitioner's U.S. citizenship. (Department Exhibit A, p. 17)
6. The Department subsequently determined that Petitioner meets the citizenship requirement.
7. On September 15, 2015, a Benefit Notice was issued to Petitioner stating he was eligible for full Medicaid coverage from March 2014 through July 2014. (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 (January 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 March 28, 2014, MA application, it was marked that Petitioner was not a United States citizen and there was no answer to the question asking if he had eligible immigration status. (Department Exhibit A, p. 6) Petitioner's application was initially approved for Emergency Services Only (ESO) MA coverage.

On August 26, 2015, a hearing request was filed on Petitioner's behalf stating that Petitioner is a U.S. citizen. (Department Exhibit A, p. 2) The Department was able to verify Petitioner's U.S. citizenship. (Department Exhibit A, p. 17) The Department subsequently determined that Petitioner meets the citizenship requirement. On

September 15, 2015, a Benefit Notice was issued to Petitioner stating he was eligible for full Medicaid coverage from March 2014 through July 2014. (Department Exhibit A, pp. 15-16) It is also noted that Petitioner's Medicaid eligibility printout shows full coverage Medicaid continued through May 2015, the end of the time period at issue for this appeal. (Department Exhibit A, pp. 11-14)

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 did properly determine 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**.



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

Date Mailed: **1/15/2016**

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:

