

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



MAHS Reg. No.: 15-020548
Issue No.: 3007
Agency Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: January 05, 2016
County: CALHOUN 21

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Gary Heisler

HEARING DECISION

Following Petitioner'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 January 5, 2016, from Lansing, Michigan. The Claimant was represented by himself and his authorized hearing representative [REDACTED]. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Hearing Facilitator [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did the Department properly reduce Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits beginning October 1, 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. Claimant was an ongoing recipient of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.
2. On October 1, 2015, Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits were reduced. The Department did not send Claimant any notice regarding the negative action.
3. On October 27, 2015, Claimant submitted a hearing request.

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 Food Assistance Program (FAP) [formerly known as the Food Stamp program] is established by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, 7 USC 2011 to 2036a and is implemented by the federal regulations contained in 7 CFR 273. The Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001-.3011.

Evidence submitted by the Department indicates that Claimant received an increase in Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits at the approximate time his Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits were reduced. The Department does not dispute the fact that no notice of the negative action was sent to Claimant prior to the reduction. Bridges Administration Manual (BAM) 600 Hearings (10-1-2015) dictates the following notice requirements at page 1:

NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

All Programs

The application forms and each written notice of case action must inform clients of their right to a hearing. These include an explanation of how and where to file a hearing request, and the right to be assisted by and represented by anyone the client chooses.

The client must receive a written notice of all case actions affecting eligibility or amount of benefits. When a case action is completed it must specify:

The action being taken by the department.

The reason(s) for the action.

The **specific manual item(s)** that cites the legal base for an action, or the regulation, or law itself; see Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 220.

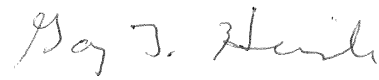
The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department did not act in accordance with Department policy when it reduced Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits beginning October 1, 2015.

DECISION AND ORDER

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

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO BEGIN DOING THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Re-determine Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) eligibility from October 1, 2015 ongoing.
2. Issue Claimant a current Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) showing the eligibility determination.



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

Date Mailed: **1/8/2016**

GH/nr

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: S [REDACTED]