

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████
██
██

MAHS Reg. No.: 15-021208
Issue No.: ESO
Agency Case No.: ██████████
Hearing Date: January 06, 2016
County: DHHS Special
Processing Office

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Alice C. Elkin

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 4-way telephone hearing was held on January 6, 2016, from Detroit, Michigan. Petitioner participated via telephone and represented himself. His friend ██████████ appeared as a witness on Petitioner's behalf. The Department was represented by ██████████, Eligibility Specialist. ██████████ from Linguistica served as translator (Arabic) during the hearing.

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 November 19, 2014, Petitioner applied for MA (Exhibit A, pp. 5-16).
2. On the date of MA application, Petitioner was not a United States citizen.

3. Beginning November 1, 2014, Petitioner was approved for Emergency Services Only (ESO) MA coverage (Exhibit A, pp. 25-27).
4. On an unknown date, the Department issued a notice to the Petitioner indicating he might have been denied full MA coverage based on immigration status between January 2014 and May 2015.
5. On August 26, 2015, Petitioner requested a hearing.

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 Department granting him ESO MA rather than full-coverage MA. To be eligible for full-coverage MA, a person must be a U.S. citizen or an alien admitted to the U.S. under a specific immigration status. BEM 225 (January 2014), p. 2. An individual who is a permanent resident alien with a class code on the permanent residency card other than RE, AM or AS is eligible only for ESO MA coverage for the first five years in the U.S. unless the alien is a qualified military alien or the spouse or dependent child of a qualified military alien. BEM 225, pp. 7-8, 30; MREM, § 3.6. A qualified military alien is a qualified alien on active duty in, or veteran honorably discharged from, the U.S. Armed Forces. BEM 225, p. 5; MREM, § 3.6. A person who does not meet an acceptable alien status, including undocumented aliens and non-immigrants who have stayed beyond the period authorized by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, are eligible only for ESO MA coverage. BEM 225, p. 9. The alien status of each non-citizen must be verified to be eligible for full MA coverage. BEM 225, p. 2.

In this case, the Department testified that after Petitioner filed his hearing request, it reassessed his MA eligibility. Based on Petitioner's statements in his MA application that he was not a U.S. citizen but had eligible immigration status and that he was a permanent resident, it activated full-coverage MA for him from November 1, 2014 to

November 30, 2015. On November 13, 2015, the Department sent Petitioner a Benefit Notice showing that it had changed his coverage for November 2014 through September 2015 to full-coverage MA (Exhibit A, pp. 23-24). The Department also provided a Medicaid eligibility summary showing that Petitioner received full-coverage MA between November 1, 2014 and November 30, 2015 (Exhibit A, pp. 21-22).

The Department changed Petitioner's coverage back to ESO beginning December 1, 2015 (Exhibit A, p. 21). The only issue presented is whether coverage was properly converted back to ESO. The evidence presented by the Department, namely the copy of Petitioner's permanent residency card, established that Petitioner had entered the U.S. from [REDACTED] in August 2013. There was no eligible asylum or refugee status identified on the permanent residency card. Petitioner confirmed that he had not served in the U.S. military and was not the spouse of a service person. Because Petitioner had not been a resident alien for 5 years, had not served in the U.S. military, and did not have eligible asylum or refugee status, he was not eligible for full-coverage MA. Therefore, the Department properly converted his MA coverage to ESO coverage effective December 1, 2015.

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 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**.



Alice C. Elkin
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

Date Mailed: 01/08/16

ACE / 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.

CC: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]