

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

MAHS Reg. No.: 15-021432
Issue No.: ESO
Agency Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: January 06, 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 6, 2016, from Lansing, Michigan. [REDACTED], the Petitioner, appeared on her own behalf. [REDACTED] Daughter, appeared as a witness for Petitioner. The Department was represented by [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist. [REDACTED] with Linguistica International, provided interpretation services 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 August 11, 2014, Petitioner applied for MA requesting retroactive MA to May 2014. (Department Exhibit A, pp. 5-25)
2. On the August 11, 2014, MA application Petitioner marked that she was not a United States citizen or national but did have eligible immigration status. (Department Exhibit A, p. 8)

3. Petitioner's application was initially approved for Emergency Services Only (ESO) MA coverage.
4. On August 27, 2015, Petitioner filed a hearing request contesting the Department's determination. (Department Exhibit A, p. 2)
5. The Department subsequently approved full MA coverage for all months that previously had ESO coverage. (Department Exhibit A, p. 1, Eligibility Specialist Testimony)
6. On November 17, 2015, a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice was issued to Petitioner stating she was eligible for full Medicaid coverage from May 2014 through July 2015. (Department Exhibit A, pp. 28-29)

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)

When an applicant for Medicaid claims to be a U.S. citizen or to have qualified immigrant status, and all other eligibility factors are met, certify benefits. Once the case has been open and coverage entered in Bridges, verification of citizenship must be completed. BAM 130, (July 1, 2014), p. 4.

On the August 11, 2014, MA application Petitioner marked that she was not a United States citizen or national but did have eligible immigration status. (Department Exhibit A, p. 8) Petitioner's application was initially approved for Emergency Services Only (ESO) MA coverage.

On August 27, 2015, Petitioner filed a hearing request contesting the Department's determination. (Department Exhibit A, p. 2)

The Department subsequently approved full MA coverage for all months that previously had ESO coverage. (Department Exhibit A, p. 1, Eligibility Specialist Testimony) On November 17, 2015, a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice was issued to Petitioner stating she was eligible for full Medicaid coverage from May 2014 through July 2015. (Department Exhibit A, pp. 28-29) The Eligibility Specialist also explained that Petitioner's MA case had closed in July 2015. If she has not already done so, Petitioner may wish to re-apply for MA benefits.

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 already updated their determination about MA eligibility based on Petitioner's immigration status for the relevant time period to full MA coverage.

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:

