

**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.: 15-021596  
Issue No.: ESO 2001  
Agency Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: January 07, 2016  
County: DHHS SSPC OFFICE

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Carmen G. Fahie**

**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 7, 2016, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner was present and testified on his own behalf. The Department was represented by [REDACTED] Eligibility Specialist. [REDACTED] served as translator 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 December 5, 2014, the Petitioner applied for MA or had a redetermination of current MA benefits.
2. On the date of MA application or redetermination, Petitioner was not a United States (U.S.) citizen.

3. Beginning December 1, 2015, the Petitioner's **full-coverage MA case and/or application** was **converted/approved** for Emergency Services Only (ESO) MA coverage or denied MA coverage.
4. On November 2, 2015, 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 28, 2015, the 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 **conversion to ESO MA and/or activation/denial** of full MA coverage. 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.

In the instant case, the Petitioner testified that he does not meet the criteria for full MA eligibility. At time of application or redetermination, Petitioner or Petitioner's family member status was ineligible for full MA. He got married to a U.S. citizen on [REDACTED], [REDACTED] but has not been in the U.S. for at least five years to be eligible for full MA. Due to Department error, the Petitioner was found eligible for full MA from January 1, 2015, through November 30, 2015. His case closed November 19, 2015, for failure to provide verification due to Department error because the redetermination application was sent to the wrong address even though he updated his address with a new application in March 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 **did not** properly determine Petitioner's immigration status or citizenship when determining MA eligibility. The Petitioner was not eligible for full MA coverage and did not meet the criteria. In addition, his MA case was closed due to Department error when the

Department failed to update his new address even though he filed a new application in March 2015.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's determination about MA eligibility based on immigration status 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. Redetermine MA eligibility in accordance with Department policy retroactive to December 2014.
2. Notify Petitioner in writing of the Department's new MA eligibility determination.

*Carmen G. Fahie*

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**Carmen G. Fahie**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Nick Lyon, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

Date Mailed: 01/11/2016

CGF/jaf

**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:

