

**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.: 15-016470
Issue No.: 2001
Agency Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: January 20, 2016
County: Lapeer

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Vicki Armstrong

HEARING DECISION

Following Claimant'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, an in-person hearing was held on January 20, 2016, in Lapeer, Michigan. Claimant personally appeared and testified. The Department was represented by Eligibility Specialist [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in Lapeer County and Family Independence Manager [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and Eligibility Specialist [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from Washtenaw County.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close Claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) case for failure to timely return verifications?

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 June 16, 2015, the Department mailed Claimant a Redetermination with a due date of July 1, 2015. (Dept Ex. A, pp 10-15).
2. On July 20, 2015, the Department issued a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice informing Claimant her MA was closing effective August 1, 2015 for failure to provide the required proofs. (Dept Ex. A, pp 16-18).
3. On September 2, 2015, Claimant filed a request for hearing contesting the Department's negative action. (Dept Ex. A, pp 3-4).

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 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 (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

Department policy states that clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility. This includes completion of the necessary forms. BAM 105, p 8 (1/1/2015). Clients who are able but refuse to provide necessary information or take a required action are subject to penalties. BAM 105, p 9 (1/1/2015). Clients must take actions within their ability to obtain verifications. BAM 105, p 8 (1/1/2015).

The Department must assist when necessary. BAM 105. The local office must assist clients who ask for help in completing forms (including the DCH-0733-D) or gathering verifications. Verification is usually required at application/redetermination and for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level. BAM 130, p 1 (10/1/2014). Verification means documentation or other evidence to establish the accuracy of the client's verbal or written statements. BAM 130, p 1 (10/1/2014).

The Department uses the Verification Checklist, DHS-3503, to tell the client what verification is required, how to obtain it and the due date. BAM 130, p 2 (10/1/2014). The client must obtain the required verification, but the Department must assist if they need and request help. *Id.*

A client is allowed 10 calendar days (or other time limit specified in policy) to provide the verification requested by the Department. BAM 130, p 6. The Department sends a negative action notice when the client indicates refusal to provide a verification, or the time period given has elapsed and the client has not made a reasonable effort to provide it. BAM 130, p 6.

In this case, Claimant received a letter from Michigan Enrolls on the same date as she received the Redetermination. The letter from Michigan Enrolls explained that she could do nothing and keep her current health plan. Claimant admitted she took that to mean that she did not need to fill out and return the Redetermination. As a result, Claimant did not complete and return the Redetermination.

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, finds that the Department acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed Claimant's MA benefits.

DECISION AND ORDER

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



Vicki Armstrong
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

Date Mailed: **2/2/2016**

VA/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:

