

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



MAHS Reg. No.: 16-000280  
Issue No.: 3009  
Agency Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: February 18, 2016  
County: Genesee- 6

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Kevin Scully

**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. After due notice, telephone hearing was held on February 18, 2016, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] (Hearing Facilitator) represented the Department of Health and Human Services (Department).

**ISSUE**

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly deny the Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) application?

**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 October 28, 2015, and December 29, 2015, the Department received Food Assistance Program (FAP) application from the Claimant.
2. On May 13, 2013, the Claimant was convicted of several drug-related felonies.
3. On October 29, 2015, the Department notified the Claimant that it had denied his October 28, 2015, Food Assistance Program (FAP) application.
4. On December 29, 2015, the Department notified the Claimant that it had denied his December 29, 2015, Food Assistance Program (FAP) application.
5. On January 5, 2016, the Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing protesting the denial of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.

### **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.

A person who has been convicted of a felony for the use, possession, or distribution of controlled substances is disqualified if the terms of probation or parole are violated, and the qualifying conviction occurred after August 22, 1996. If an individual is not in violation of the terms of probation or parole FIP benefits must be paid in the form of restricted payments and the receipt of FAP benefits requires an authorized representative. Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 203 (October 1, 2015), p 2.

The Department received the Claimant's FAP applications on October 28, 2015, and December 29, 2015. The Claimant was convicted on May 13, 2013, of several drug-related felonies. On October 29, 2015, and December 29, 2015, the Department notified the Claimant that it had denied his FAP applications.

The Claimant is not eligible for FAP benefits unless his benefits are issued to an authorized representative as directed by BEM 203.


The Claimant testified that since his release from prison, there is no one that he trusts enough to act as his FAP authorized representative.

This Administrative Law Judge finds that the criteria of BEM 203 does not allow a person to avoid having an authorized representative on the basis that he has no one that he trusts to act as his authorized representative.

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 acted in accordance with Department policy when it denied the Claimant's applications for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits because he failed to designate an authorized representative.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

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

  
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Kevin Scully  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Nick Lyon, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

Date Mailed: **2/22/2016**

KS/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. 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:

