



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM
Christopher Seppanen
Executive Director

MIKE ZIMMER
DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: March 2, 2016
MAHS Docket No.: 15-024726
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Susanne E. Harris

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. The 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 March 1, 2016, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by her son and Authorized Hearing Representative (AHR), [REDACTED]. The Department was represented by Eligibility Specialist, [REDACTED]. Arabic interpreter [REDACTED] served as translator during the hearing.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine the 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 11, 2014, the Petitioner applied for MA. On that application, the Petitioner indicated that she was not a US citizen and the Petitioner failed to answer questions regarding her immigration status.

2. On the date of MA application or redetermination, the Petitioner was not a United States citizen.
3. Beginning December 1, 2014, the Petitioner's full-coverage MA application was approved for Emergency Services Only (ESO) MA coverage and denied full MA coverage.
4. At some point in time before September, 2015, the Department issued a notice to the Petitioner indicating she might have been denied full MA coverage based on immigration status between January 2014 and May 2015.
5. On September 4, 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, the Petitioner requested a hearing disputing the conversion to ESO MA and 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 (2015) pp. 2, 3. The Petitioner's AHR testified that his mother has been a permanent resident alien in excess of five years. There is no evidence of that contained in the record and while it may be true, the assistance application in evidence quite clearly indicates that the Petitioner's mother is not a US citizen and the Petitioner's mother failed to answer questions regarding her immigration status. As such, the Department would not be aware that the Petitioner's mother had permanent resident alien status in excess of five years.

The Petitioner's AHR complained that the organization that assisted with completing the application made many errors. The Administrative Law Judge suggested to the Petitioner's AHR that his complaint is with that organization. Furthermore, the Administrative Law Judge informed the Petitioner's AHR that he could receive assistance completing applications at his local DHHS office.

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 properly determine the 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**



SH/nr

Susanne E. Harris
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

NOTICE OF APPEAL: A party may appeal this Order in circuit court within 30 days of the receipt date. A copy of the circuit court appeal must be filed with the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS).

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Order if the request is received by MAHS within 30 days of the date the Order was issued. The party requesting a rehearing or reconsideration must provide the specific reasons for the request. MAHS will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration.

A written request may be mailed or faxed to MAHS. If submitted by fax, the written request must be faxed to (517) 335-6088; 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

DHHS

[REDACTED]

Petitioner

[REDACTED]

Authorized Hearing Rep.

[REDACTED]