



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: November 10, 2016
MAHS Docket No.: 16-014642
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jacquelyn A. McClinton

HEARING DECISION

Following Petitioner'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, a telephone hearing was held on November 2, 2016, from Detroit, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by [REDACTED]. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist and [REDACTED], Assistance Payment Supervisor.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly reduce Petitioner's FAP benefits effective October 1, 2016?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. Petitioner is an ongoing FAP recipient.
2. On an unknown date, Petitioner submitted a Redetermination to the Department.
3. The Department was unable to verify Petitioner's medical expenses and on [REDACTED], it sent Petitioner a Notice of Case which informed her that her FAP benefits which would decrease to [REDACTED] per month effective [REDACTED].

4. On [REDACTED], Petitioner filed a Request for Hearing disputing the Department's actions.

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.

Additionally, verification is usually required at application/redetermination **and** for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level. BAM 130 (July 2016), p. 1. In this case, the Department testified that Petitioner's FAP benefits were reduced because it was unable to verify Petitioner's medical expenses. The Department stated that Petitioner submitted a Redetermination. However, the Department failed to produce the Redetermination. As such, it is unknown if Petitioner identified medical expenses and/or attached medical documents to the Redetermination. The Department was unable to articulate whether it sent Petitioner a Verification Checklist requesting any proof of medical expenses.

At the hearing, one of the Department representative was given the option to leave the hearing office to obtain the Redetermination and/or Verification Checklist. The Department declined to do so due to the health of Petitioner at the time of the hearing. The Notice of Hearing advised the parties to mail any documents wished to be used during the hearing at least seven days prior to the date of the hearing. The Department did not mail the Redetermination and/or the Verification Checklist seven days before the hearing and elected not to leave the hearing location to obtain a copy due to the health of Petitioner. As such, the Department did not establish that Petitioner failed to verify requested information prior to the reduction of her FAP benefits.

DECISION AND ORDER

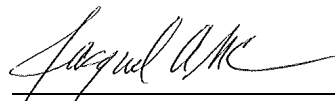
The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department acted in accordance with Department policy when it failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it reduced Petitioner's FAP benefits effective [REDACTED].

Accordingly, the Department's decision 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. Reinstatement of Petitioner's FAP benefits effective [REDACTED] ongoing;
2. Issue supplements Petitioner was eligible to receive but did not effective [REDACTED] and [REDACTED];
3. Notify Petitioner of its decision in writing.

JM/hw



Jacquelyn A. McClinton
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]

[REDACTED]

Petitioner

[REDACTED]