



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: April 22, 2016
MAHS Docket No.: 16-003240

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Carmen G. Fahie

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 April 13, 2016, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by herself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by [REDACTED], Hearing Facilitator and [REDACTED], Caseworker from the Office of Child Support (OCS).

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine that the Petitioner was not eligible for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits because she failed to cooperate with the OCS?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. The Petitioner was a recipient of FAP, but failed to cooperate with OCS. Department Exhibit 10-56.
2. On December 15, 2015, the Department sent the Petitioner a notice that her FAP benefits would be reduced from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] because she failed to cooperate with OCS. Department Exhibit 2-5.
3. On March 10, 2016, the Department received a hearing request from the Petitioner, contesting the Department's negative action.

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.

In this case, the Petitioner was a recipient of FAP, but failed to cooperate with OCS. Department Exhibit 10-56. On December 15, 2015, the Department sent the Petitioner a notice that her FAP benefits would be reduced from ██████ to ██████ because she failed to cooperate with OCS. Department Exhibit 2-5. On March 10, 2016, the Department received a hearing request from the Petitioner, contesting the Department's negative action. BAM 105 and 220. BEM 212, 220, 221, 223, 225, 255, 400, 500, and 554.

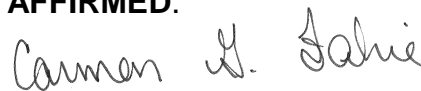
During the hearing, the OCS Caseworker stated that the potential father paternity that the Petitioner gave was not a match. As a result, she is non-compliance with OCS. The Petitioner consented to be interviewed by OCS during the hearing. She provided some leads that OCS will follow up on. The Department has met its burden that the Petitioner has not cooperated with OCS. OCS will continue their investigation to determine paternity and the Petition will be in noncompliance until the investigation is over.

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 determined that the Petitioner was in noncompliance with OCS.

DECISION AND ORDER

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

CF/db



Carmen G. Fahie

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]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Department Representative

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]