



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]
Date Mailed: September 12, 2016
MAHS Docket No.: 16-011414
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 September 7, 2016, from Detroit, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by [REDACTED]. [REDACTED], Petitioner's daughter, appeared as an observer. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Hearing Facilitator.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close Petitioner's FAP benefits due to criminal disqualification?

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 was a FAP recipient.
2. On [REDACTED], Petitioner's assigned worker received information that Petitioner had been convicted of two felony drug convictions since [REDACTED].
3. On [REDACTED], the Department sent Petitioner a Notice of Case Action which notified Petitioner that his FAP benefits would close effective [REDACTED].

4. Petitioner contacted his worker and orally requested a hearing to dispute 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, all clients have the right to request a hearing. The following people have authority to exercise this right by signing a hearing request:

- An adult member of the eligible group; **or**
- The client's authorized hearing representative (AHR).

Requests for a hearing must be made in writing and signed by one of the persons listed above. The request must bear a signature. Faxes or photocopies of signatures are acceptable. Michigan Administrative Hearings System (MAHS) will deny requests signed by unauthorized persons and requests without signatures. For Food Assistance Program (**FAP**) **only**, a hearing request may be written or oral. BAM 600 (October 2015), p. 2. In this case, Petitioner contacted his assigned worker and orally requested a hearing after he received the [REDACTED] Notice of Case Action sent by the Department which informed Petitioner that his FAP benefits would close effective [REDACTED].

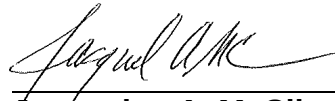
The Department testified that it received information that Petitioner had been convicted of two drug-related felonies. Under Department policy, an individual convicted of a felony for the use, possession, or distribution of controlled substances two or more times in separate periods will be permanently disqualified if both offenses occurred after August 22, 1996. BEM 203 (October 2015), p. 2. Petitioner confirmed that he had been convicted of two drug-related felonies since August 22, 1996. As such, Petitioner is not eligible to receive FAP benefits.

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 closed Petitioner's FAP benefits due to criminal disqualification, effective [REDACTED].

DECISION AND ORDER

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

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]