



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM

SHELLY EDGERTON  
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]  
MI [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: July 19, 2018  
MAHS Docket No.: 18-001707  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: OIG  
Respondent: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Jeffrey Kemm

**HEARING DECISION FOR INTENTIONAL PROGRAM VIOLATION**

Upon the request for a hearing by the Department of Health and Human Services (Department), this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9, and in accordance with Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulation (CFR), particularly 7 CFR 273.16. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on July 19, 2018, from Lansing, Michigan. The Department was represented by Don Gardner, Regulation Agent of the Office of Inspector General (OIG). Respondent, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] did not appear. The hearing was held in Respondent's absence pursuant to 7 CFR 273.16(e)(4).

**ISSUES**

1. Did Respondent receive an overissuance (OI) of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits that the Department is entitled to recoup?
2. Did the Department establish, by clear and convincing evidence, that Respondent committed an Intentional Program Violation (IPV)?
3. Should Respondent be disqualified from receiving FAP benefits?

**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 17, 2001, Respondent pled guilty to a controlled substance felony in the Third Judicial Circuit Court of Michigan. Exhibit A, p. 42.
2. On November 10, 2016, Respondent pled guilty to a controlled substance felony in the Third Judicial Circuit Court of Michigan. Exhibit A, p. 43.

3. On November 19, 2016, Respondent was sentenced to probation for the controlled substance felony he pled guilty to on November 10. Exhibit A, p. 43.
4. On November 19, 2016, later in the day, Respondent went to a local office of the Department. Exhibit A, p. 52. Respondent submitted an application for assistance, including FAP benefits. Exhibit A, p. 10.
5. Respondent only completed sections A through C of the application he submitted to the Department on November 19, 2016; Respondent left sections D through V blank. Exhibit A, p. 10-28. Respondent did not complete the section which included questions about felony drug convictions. Exhibit A, p. 27.
6. The Department processed Respondent's application and approved him for FAP benefits based on the information he provided. Exhibit A, p. 45.
7. On October 4, 2017, the Department issued a Redetermination to Respondent to obtain information from Respondent to review his eligibility for assistance. Exhibit A, p. 32-38.
8. On October 26, 2017, the Department received Respondent's completed Redetermination. In the completed Redetermination, Respondent answered "no" when asked if he had been convicted of a drug-related felony more than once. Exhibit A, p. 38.
9. Respondent signed the completed Redetermination and thereby affirmed that he understood the questions and that he provided true and complete information. Exhibit A, p. 38.
10. Respondent did not have any apparent physical or mental impairment which would have limited his understanding or his ability to answer the questions on his application truthfully and completely.
11. The Department issued \$2,192.00 in FAP benefits to Respondent from December 2016 through November 2017.
12. The Department conducted an investigation of Respondent's case and determined that Respondent had two or more felony drug convictions which he had not reported. The Department determined that it overissued Respondent \$2,192.00 in FAP benefits from December 2016 through November 2017.
13. On February 23, 2018, the Department's OIG filed a hearing request to establish that Respondent received an overissuance of benefits and that Respondent committed an IPV.
14. The OIG requested a recoupment of \$2,192.00 in FAP benefits and a one-year disqualification from receiving FAP benefits.

15. A notice of hearing was mailed to Respondent at his last known address and it was not returned by the United States Postal Service as undeliverable.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

### **Overissuance**

An overissuance is the amount of benefits issued to the client group in excess of what it was eligible to receive. BAM 700 (October 1, 2016), p. 1. When a client group receives more benefits than entitled to receive, the Department must attempt to recoup the overissuance. BAM 700, p. 1. In this case, Respondent received more FAP benefits than he was entitled to receive. An individual who has been convicted of two or more felony drug offenses which occurred after August 22, 1996, is permanently disqualified from receiving FAP benefits. BEM 203 (October 1, 2017), p. 2. Respondent had two or more felony drug convictions which occurred after August 22, 1996, so he was permanently disqualified from receiving benefits as of the date of his last conviction, November 10, 2016. Thus, all benefits issued to Respondent after November 10, 2016, were overissued because Respondent was not entitled to any benefits. The Department issued \$2,192.00 in FAP benefits to Respondent from December 2016 through November 2017, so Respondent was overissued \$2,192.00 in FAP benefits.

### **Intentional Program Violation**

The Department's policy in effect at the time of Respondent's alleged IPV defined an IPV as an overissuance in which the following three conditions exist: (1) The client intentionally failed to report information or intentionally gave incomplete or inaccurate information needed to make a correct benefit determination, and (2) The client was clearly and correctly instructed regarding his or her reporting responsibilities, and (3) The client has no apparent physical or mental impairment that limits his or her understanding or ability to fulfill their reporting responsibilities. BAM 720 (October 1, 2017) p. 1.

An IPV requires that the Department establish by clear and convincing evidence that the client has intentionally withheld or misrepresented information for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, increasing or preventing reduction of program benefits or eligibility. BAM 720, p. 1; see also 7 CFR 273.16(e)(6). Clear and convincing evidence is evidence which is so clear, direct, weighty, and convincing that it enables a firm belief as to the truth of the allegations sought to be established. *In re Martin*, 450 Mich 204, 227; 538 NW2d 399 (1995) (citing *In re Jobes*, 108 NJ 394 (1987)).

In this case, I find that the Department has met its burden. Respondent was required to completely and truthfully answer all questions on forms and in interviews. BAM 105 (October 1, 2017), p. 9. The Department clearly and correctly instructed Respondent to provide true and complete information on his application and redetermination. Respondent failed to completely and truthfully answer all questions on both because he

failed to disclose that he had two or more drug-related convictions. Both the application and the redetermination asked Respondent if he had such convictions and Respondent either did not respond or misrepresented that he did not have two such convictions. In the redetermination, the Department asked Respondent if he had two or more felony drug-related convictions occurring after August 22, 1996, and Respondent answered “No” when in fact he did have two such convictions. Respondent intentionally misrepresented information to the Department to obtain benefits because he withheld information about his felony drug convictions when he knew or should have known that the Department would consider the information in determining his eligibility for benefits. Respondent did not have any apparent physical or mental impairment that would limit her understanding or ability to fulfill her reporting requirement.

### **Disqualification**

A client who is found to have committed an IPV by a court or hearing decision is disqualified from receiving program benefits. BAM 720, p. 15-16. In general, clients are disqualified for standard disqualification periods of one year for the first IPV, two years for the second IPV, and lifetime for the third IPV. BAM 720, p. 16. A disqualified recipient remains a member of an active group as long as he/she lives with them, and other eligible group members may continue to receive benefits. BAM 720, p. 16.

In this case, there is no evidence that Respondent has ever been found to have committed an IPV related to FAP benefits. Thus, this is Respondent’s first IPV related to FAP benefits. Therefore, Respondent is subject to a one-year disqualification.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

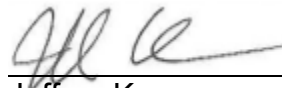
The Administrative Law Judge based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, concludes that:

1. Respondent received an overissuance of FAP benefits in the amount of \$2,192.00 that the Department is entitled to recoup.
2. The Department has established, by clear and convincing evidence, that Respondent committed an IPV.
3. Respondent should be disqualified from receiving FAP benefits.

IT IS ORDERED THAT the Department may initiate recoupment procedures for the amount of \$2,192.00 in accordance with Department policy.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall be disqualified from FAP benefits for a period of one year.

JK/nr



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Jeffrey Kemm  
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) 763-0155; 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**

Dora Allen  
14061 Lappin  
Detroit, MI  
48205

Wayne 76 County DHHS- via electronic  
mail

MDHHS- Recoupment- via electronic mail

M. Shumaker- via electronic mail

**Petitioner**

OIG  
PO Box 30062  
Lansing, MI  
48909-7562

**Respondent**

[REDACTED]  
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