



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]
MI [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: August 2, 2018
MAHS Docket No.: 18-003264
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: OIG
Respondent: [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 Titles 7 of the Code of Federal Regulation (CFR), particularly 7 CFR 273.16. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on August 1, 2018, from Lansing, Michigan. The Department was represented by Maria Williams, Regulation Agent of the Office of Inspector General (OIG). Respondent, [REDACTED] appeared and represented herself.

ISSUES

1. Did the Department establish, by clear and convincing evidence, that Respondent committed an Intentional Program Violation (IPV)?
2. 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 January 27, 2016, Respondent applied for assistance from the Department, including FAP benefits. In the application Respondent submitted to the Department, Respondent did not report that she was employed or receiving income from employment. Respondent signed her application and thereby affirmed that she understood the questions and that she provided true and complete information. Exhibit A, p. 11-39.
2. At the time that Respondent applied for assistance, Respondent was employed by Envisions Medical Group and receiving income from her employment. Exhibit A, p. 43-44.

3. The Department found Respondent eligible for FAP benefits based on the information she provided in her application, and the Department issued Respondent FAP benefits. Exhibit A, p. 53-54.
4. Respondent was employed by Envisions Medical Group and receiving income from her employment through March 21, 2017. Exhibit A, p. 43-44.
5. The Department conducted an investigation of Respondent's case and discovered that she had unreported income.
6. The Department established a debt of \$4,096.00, which it has already collected from Respondent.
7. On March 29, 2018, the Department's OIG filed a hearing request to establish that Respondent committed an IPV. Exhibit A, p. 1.
8. The OIG requested that Respondent be disqualified from receiving program benefits for 12 months for a first IPV.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Intentional Program Violation

Respondent received an overissuance of FAP benefits because Respondent received more FAP benefits than she was entitled to receive since she had unreported income. The issue here is whether the overissuance was due to an 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 (January 1, 2016) 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

(July 1, 2015), p. 8. The Department clearly and correctly instructed Respondent to provide true and complete information on her application. Respondent failed to completely and truthfully answer all questions on her application for assistance because Respondent failed to disclose the fact that she was employed by Envisions Medical Group and earning income. Respondent's failure to disclose her employment income to the Department must be considered an intentional misrepresentation to obtain or increase her FAP benefits since Respondent knew or should have known that she was required to provide information about her employment income to the Department and that providing it would have caused a reduction or denial of her FAP 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. The Department has established by clear and convincing evidence that Respondent committed an IPV.
2. Respondent should be disqualified from receiving FAP benefits.

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

JK/nr



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

Petitioner

OIG
PO Box 30062
Lansing, MI
48909-7562

Oakland 3 County DHHS- via electronic mail

MDHHS- Recoupment- via electronic mail

M. Shumaker- via electronic mail

DHHS

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Respondent

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED], MI
[REDACTED]