



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: December 18, 2018
MAHS Docket No.: 18-009943
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Kevin Scully

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. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on November 21, 2018, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner was represented by his mother [REDACTED]. The Department of Health and Human Services was represented by Mary Acker and Sara Terreros.

ISSUE

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly close Petitioner's Medical Assistance (MA) 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 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the Department received Petitioner's application for assistance. Exhibit A, pp 26-32.
2. On August [REDACTED] 2018, the Department notified Petitioner that he was approved for Medical Assistance (MA) effective August 1, 2018. Exhibit A, pp 23-25.
3. On August [REDACTED] 2018, the Department sent Petitioner a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503) requesting verification of the balance of a checking account by August [REDACTED] 2018. Exhibit A, pp 21-22.

4. On August [REDACTED] 2018, the Department sent Petitioner a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503) requesting verification of the balance of a savings account by August 31, 2018. Exhibit A, pp 16-17.
5. On September [REDACTED] 2018, the Department notified Petitioner that he was not eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) effective October 1, 2018. Exhibit A, pp 7-10.
6. On September [REDACTED] 2018, the Department notified Petitioner that his Food Assistance Program (FAP) application had been denied. Exhibit A, pp 11-14.
7. On [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the Department received Petitioner's request for a hearing protesting the closure of his Medical Assistance (MA) benefits. Exhibit A, pp 5-6.

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 Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5; 42 USC 1315; the Affordable Care Act of 2010, the collective term for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152; and 42 CFR 430.10-.25. The Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

Clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility and this includes the completion of necessary forms. Department of Human Services Bridges Assistance Manual (BAM) 105 (January 1, 2018), p 8.

Verification means documentation or other evidence to establish the accuracy of the client's verbal or written statements. Verification is usually required at application/redetermination and for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level when it is required by policy, required as a local office option, or information regarding an eligibility factor is unclear, inconsistent, incomplete, or contradictory. The Department uses documents, collateral contacts, or home calls to verify information. A collateral contact is a direct contact with a person, organization, or agency to verify information from the client. When documentation is not available, or clarification is needed, collateral contact may be necessary. Department of Human Services Bridges Assistance Manual (BAM) 130 (April 1, 2017), pp 1-10.

On [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the Department received Petitioner's application for assistance. On August [REDACTED] 2018, the Department requested verification of a checking account. The Department suspected that Petitioner also has a savings account, and on August [REDACTED] 2018, the Department requested verification of a savings account. On September [REDACTED] 2018, the Department had not received verification of the balance of a savings account, or that the account had been closed. Therefore, the Department closed Petitioner's MA and FAP benefits.

A savings account is a countable asset and it is necessary for the Department to verify the balance of a savings account that is available to MA and FAP recipients in order to accurately determine eligibility for those 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 Medical Assistance (MA) benefits for failure to provide the Department with information necessary to determine his eligibility to receive benefits.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

KS/hb



Kevin Scully
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

Kimberly Kornoelje
121 Franklin SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Kent County, DHHS

BSC3 via electronic mail

D. Smith via electronic mail

EQADHShearings via electronic mail

Authorized Hearing Rep.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]