



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
MICHIGAN OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], MI [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: January 31, 2019
MOAHR Docket No.: 19-013556
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jeffrey Kemm

HEARING DECISION

Following Petitioner's request for a hearing, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9, 7 CFR 273.15, and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on January 29, 2020, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner, [REDACTED], appeared with her neighbor, [REDACTED]. Respondent, Department of Health and Human Services (Department), had Swanzetta Wilson, Recoupment Specialist, appear as its representative. [REDACTED] provided Arabic interpretation.

One exhibit was admitted into evidence during the hearing. A 62-page packet of documents provided by the Department was admitted collectively as the Department's Exhibit A.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine that Petitioner owes the Department a debt of \$812.00 for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits that were overissued to her from July 2018 through November 2018?

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 is a FAP recipient.
2. Petitioner reported her employment to the Department as required. Petitioner provided copies of her paycheck stubs to the Department. One paycheck stub was for May 25, 2015, which showed that Petitioner received [REDACTED] for the dates of May 14, 2018, through May 20, 2018. Another paycheck stub was for

June 1, 2018, which showed that Petitioner received [REDACTED] for the dates of May 21, 2018, through May 27, 2018.

3. The Department incorrectly processed Petitioner's paycheck stubs by entering them as biweekly payments when they should have been entered as weekly payments. This resulted in the Department determining the incorrect monthly FAP benefit amount.
4. Subsequently, the Department discovered its error through an audit. The Department re-budgeted Petitioner's paychecks and determined her correct monthly FAP benefit amount.
5. The Department determined that Petitioner was overissued \$812.00 in FAP benefits from July 2018 through November 2018.
6. On December 17, 2019, the Department mailed a notice of overissuance to Petitioner to notify her that she received an overissuance of \$812.00 in FAP benefits from July 1, 2018, through November 30, 2018, due to the Department's error.
7. On December 20, 2019, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the notice of overissuance.

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) 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 administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001-.3011.

When a client receives more benefits than she was entitled to receive, the Department must attempt to recoup the overissuance. BAM 700 (October 1, 2018), p. 1. The overissuance amount is the amount of benefits in excess of the amount the client was eligible to receive. *Id.* at 2. In this case, the Department issued Petitioner more FAP benefits than what she was eligible to receive because the Department issued Petitioner FAP benefits based on its erroneous calculation of her income, which understated her actual income and increased the amount of FAP benefits she was eligible for. The Department presented sufficient evidence to establish that the total amount overissued was \$812.00, and Petitioner did not present any evidence to rebut the Department's evidence. Therefore, I must find that the Department properly determined that Petitioner owes the Department a debt of \$812.00.


Overissuances for FAP that result from the Department's error must be pursued by the Department when the amount is greater than or equal to \$250. BAM 705 (October 1, 2018), p. 1. Here, Petitioner received an overissuance due to the Department's error. However, the Department acted in accordance with its policies when it pursued the overissuance because the amount involved was greater than or equal to \$250.

DECISION AND ORDER

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 did act in accordance with its policies and the applicable law when it determined that Petitioner owes the Department a debt of \$812.00 for FAP benefits that were overissued to her from July 2018 through November 2018.

IT IS ORDERED that the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

JK/ml



Jeffrey Kemm
Administrative Law Judge
for Robert Gordon, 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 Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR).

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Order if the request is received by MOAHR 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. MOAHR will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration.

A written request may be mailed or faxed to MOAHR. If submitted by fax, the written request must be faxed to (517) 763-0155; Attention: MOAHR Rehearing/Reconsideration Request.

If submitted by mail, the written request must be addressed as follows:

Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request
P.O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8139

DHHS Department Rep.

MDHHS-Recoupment – Via Electronic
Mail
235 S. Grand Ave.
Suite 1011
Lansing, MI 48909

Wayne (District 17) County DHHS – Via
Electronic Mail

OIG – Via Electronic Mail

L. Bengel – Via Electronic Mail

DHHS

Tara Roland 82-17
8655 Greenfield
Detroit, MI 48228

Petitioner

 – Via First Class Mail
MI