GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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

ORLENE HAWKS DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: January 20, 2021 MOAHR Docket No.: 20-007540

Agency No.: Petitioner:

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Aaron McClintic

#### **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; 42 CFR 438.400 to 438.424; 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 January 12, 2021, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by herself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Julie Barr Recoupment Specialist. Department Exhibit 1, pp. 1-57 was received and admitted.

## <u>ISSUE</u>

Did the Department properly determine that Petitioner received an overissuance of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits due to client error?

#### 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 recipient of FAP benefits.
- 2. Petitioner began receiving unemployment benefits on April 23, 2020.
- 3. Petitioner did not report her unemployment benefits as required.
- 4. On November 24, 2020, Notice of Overissuance was sent to Petitioner informing her that she received an overissuance of FAP benefits from June 1, 2020, through July 31, 2020, totaling \$1,018 due to client error. (Ex. 1, p.44-48)
- 5. On Petitioner requested hearing disputing the determination 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) [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.

### **All Programs**

When a client group receives more benefits than it is entitled to receive, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) must attempt to recoup the overissuance. A client error occurs when the client received more benefits than they were entitled to because the client gave incorrect or incomplete information to the department. BAM 700

In this case, Petitioner acknowledged at hearing that she did not report her unemployment income as required. As a result, Petitioner received an overissuance of FAP benefits due to Client error. Department policy requires that overissuances due to Client error must be recouped. Petitioner's overissuance was \$1,018 and therefore must be recouped.

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 determined that Petitioner received an overissuance of \$1,018 in FAP benefits due to Department error and that this overissuance must be recouped.

## **DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

AM/nr

Aaron McClintic

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

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