



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
MICHIGAN OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES  
SUZANNE SONNEBORN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA  
ACTING DIRECTOR

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██████████, MI ██████████

Date Mailed: January 11, 2024  
MOAHR Docket No.: 23-007519  
Agency No.: ██████████  
Petitioner: ██████████

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Ellen McLemore**

### **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 10, 2024, via conference line. Petitioner was present and was unrepresented. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Juanita Munoz, Hearing Facilitator.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's wife's application for 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 ██████████, 2023, Petitioner's wife submitted an application for MA benefits.
2. On July 24, 2023, the Department sent Petitioner a DHS-1004 Health Care Coverage Supplemental Questionnaire (Questionnaire) (Exhibit A, pp. 10-13).
3. On September 1, 2023, the Department sent Petitioner a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice informing him that his wife's MA application was denied for the failure to return the Questionnaire (Exhibit A, pp. 7-9).

4. On October 23, 2023, Petitioner submitted a request for hearing disputing the Department's actions.

### **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.

In this case, the Department sent Petitioner's wife a Health Care Coverage Supplemental Questionnaire with a due date of August 3, 2023. On September 13, 2023, the Department sent Petitioner a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice informing him that his wife's application for MA was denied for his failure to return the Questionnaire.

An incomplete application contains the minimum information required for registering an application. BAM 115 (October 2017), p. 5. However, it does not contain enough information to determine eligibility because all required questions are not answered for the program(s) for which the client is applying BAM 115, p. 5. The DHS-1004, Health Care Coverage Supplemental Questionnaire, is used to gather additional information when the applicant indicates a disability on an MA application. BEM 105 (April 2017), p. 3. The Department will deny an incomplete application 10 calendar days after the request is made for the client to supply the missing information. BAM 115, p. 6.

At the hearing, Petitioner testified that he attempted to submit a copy of the Questionnaire on August 3, 2023. The Department conceded that Petitioner submitted screenshots of the Questionnaire on August 3, 2023, but they were not complete images. Petitioner testified that he was not informed of the submission error until December 2023.

Petitioner made a good faith effort to submit the requested document. The Department did not advise Petitioner of the submission error until after the denial. Therefore, the Department did not act in accordance with policy when it denied Petitioner's wife's MA application.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

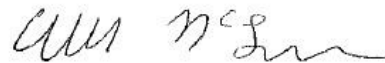
The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department did not act in accordance with Department policy when it denied Petitioner's wife's MA benefit case.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is **REVERSED**.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO BEGIN DOING THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Reinstate and reprocess Petitioner's wife's [REDACTED], 2023 MA application;
2. If Petitioner's wife is eligible for MA benefits, provide coverage she is eligible to receive; and
3. Notify Petitioner of its decision in writing.

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**Ellen McLemore**  
Administrative Law Judge

**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

**Via-Electronic Mail :**

**DHHS**  
Tracy Felder  
Wayne-Southwest-DHHS  
2524 Clark Street  
Detroit, MI 48209  
**MDHHS-Wayne-41-  
Hearings@michigan.gov**

**Interested Parties**  
M. Schaefer  
EQADHearings  
BSC4

**Via-First Class Mail :**

**Petitioner**  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], MI [REDACTED]