



FH  
[REDACTED]

**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**Division of Hearings and Appeals**

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In the Matter of

[REDACTED]

DECISION

CCO/146002

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**PRELIMINARY RECITALS**

Pursuant to a petition filed December 17, 2012, under Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.03, to review a decision by the Milwaukee Early Care Administration in regard to Child Care, a hearing was held on January 15, 2013, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The issue for determination is whether this appeal is timely.

There appeared at that time and place the following persons:

**PARTIES IN INTEREST:**

Petitioner:

[REDACTED]

Respondent:

Department of Children and Families  
201 East Washington Avenue  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

By: Keisha Love

Milwaukee Early Care Administration  
Department of Children And Families  
1220 W. Vliet St. 2nd Floor, 200 East  
Milwaukee, WI 53205

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:**

John P. Tedesco  
Division of Hearings and Appeals

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Petitioner (CARES # [REDACTED]) is a resident of Milwaukee County.
2. Petitioner was informed of a child care program overpayment by notice from the Department dated October 25, 2012. The notice stated that an appeal would need to be filed within 45 days.
3. Petitioner filed a request for hearing on December 18, 2012.

**DISCUSSION**

Wis. Stat., §49.195(3), provides as follows:

A county, tribal governing body, Wisconsin works agency or the department shall determine whether an overpayment has been made under s. 49.19, 49.148, 49.155 or 49.157 and, if so, the amount of the overpayment.... Notwithstanding s. 49.96, the department shall promptly recover all overpayments made under s. 49.19, 49.148, 49.155 or 49.157 that have not already been received under s. 49.161 or 49.19(17) and shall promulgate rules establishing policies and procedures to administer this subsection.

Child care subsidies are authorized in Wis. Stat., §49.155, and thus they are within the parameters of §49.195(3). Recovery of child care overpayments also is mandated in the Wis. Adm. Code, §DCF 101.23. An overpayment is any payment received in an amount greater than the amount that the assistance group was eligible to receive, regardless of the reason for the overpayment. Wis. Adm. Code, §DCF 101.23(1)(g).

A parent is eligible for child care services if she needs the care to attend W-2 approved school, to work, or to participate in W-2 activities. Wis. Stat., §49.155(1m)(a); W-2 Manual, §15.2.0. The agency shall recover child care payments if the parent was not in an approved activity. Child Day Care Manual, Chapter 2, §2.3.1.

An appeal of a negative decision concerning child care must be filed within 45 days of the negative decision. Wis. Adm. Code, §HA 3.05(3). Petitioner was informed about the time limit in the October 25, 2012 notice letter. She stated that she does not remember opening the letter with the overpayment notice, but I cannot use that failure as a reason to ignore the time limit.

I must conclude that petitioner's appeal of the overpayment was untimely. She did not appeal within 45 days of October 25, 2012. Therefore the agency may seek recovery of the entire amount cited in the overpayment notice.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Petitioner's appeal of a child care overpayment was untimely.

**THEREFORE, it is ORDERED**

That the petition for review herein be and the same is hereby dismissed.

**REQUEST FOR A REHEARING**

This is a final administrative decision. If you think this decision is based on a serious mistake in the facts or the law, you may request a rehearing. You may also ask for a rehearing if you have found new evidence which would change the decision. Your request must explain what mistake the Administrative Law Judge made and why it is important or you must describe your new evidence and tell why you did not have it at your first hearing. If you do not explain these things, your request will have to be denied.

To ask for a rehearing, send a written request to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, P.O. Box 7875, Madison, WI 53707-7875. Send a copy of your request to the other people named in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST." Your request for a rehearing must be received no later than 20 days after the date of the decision. Late requests cannot be granted.

The process for asking for a rehearing is in Wis. Stat. § 227.49. A copy of the statutes can be found at your local library or courthouse.

**APPEAL TO COURT**

You may also appeal this decision to Circuit Court in the county where you live. Appeals must be served and filed with the appropriate court no more than 30 days after the date of this hearing decision (or 30 days after a denial of rehearing, if you ask for one).

For purposes of appeal to circuit court, the Respondent in this matter is the Department of Children and Families. After filing the appeal with the appropriate court, it must be served on the Secretary of that Department, either personally or by certified mail. The address of the Department is: 201 East Washington Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53703. A copy should also be sent to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, 5005 University Avenue, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53705-5400.

The appeal must also be served on the other "PARTIES IN INTEREST" named in this decision. The process for appeals to the Circuit Court is in Wis. Stat. §§ 227.52 and 227.53.

Given under my hand at the City of Madison,  
Wisconsin, this 6th day of February, 2013

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\sJohn P. Tedesco  
Administrative Law Judge  
Division of Hearings and Appeals



**State of Wisconsin \DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS**

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The preceding decision was sent to the following parties on February 6, 2013.

Milwaukee Early Care Administration  
Public Assistance Collection Unit  
Child Care Fraud