



STATE OF WISCONSIN
Division of Hearings and Appeals

In the Matter of:



DECISION

FOP/157592

PRELIMINARY RECITALS

Pursuant to a petition filed May 12, 2014, under Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.03, to review a decision by the Winnebago County Department of Human Services ["County"] in regard to FoodShare benefits ["FS"], a Hearing was held via telephone on July 7, 2014. At petitioner's request a Hearing scheduled for June 10, 2014 was rescheduled. The Hearing for this matter was held at the same time as the Hearing for the following closely related matter concerning the same petitioner: MOP-157593.

The issue for determination is it was correct to establish the following 5 Claims against petitioner for overpayments of FS during the time period May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2014 in the total amount of \$4,575.00:

- (a) Claim Number [redacted]; \$1,864.00;
(b) Claim Number [redacted]; \$316.00;
(c) Claim Number [redacted]; \$474.00;
(d) Claim Number [redacted]; \$891.00; and,
(e) Claim Number [redacted]; \$1,030.00.

There appeared at that time via telephone the following persons:

PARTIES IN INTEREST:

Petitioner:



Respondent:

Department of Health Services
1 West Wilson Street, Room 651
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
BY: Rhonda Reinke, ESS
Leslie Vosters, Fair Hearing Coordinator
Winnebago County Department of Human Services
220 Washington Ave.
PO Box 2187
Oshkosh, WI 54903-2187

OTHER PERSONS PRESENT:

Investigator, O'Brien & Associates
Supervisor, O'Brien & Associates
petitioner's boyfriend

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

Sean P. Maloney
Division of Hearings and Appeals

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner (CARES #) is a resident of Winnebago County, Wisconsin.
2. Petitioner has a daughter ["KO"] who was born in March 1995.
3. Petitioner received FS during at least the time period October 2010 to April 2014.
4. During the time period October 2010 to April 2014 petitioner lived in Neenah, Wisconsin and reported that KO lived with her in Neenah.
5. During the time period October 2010 to April 2014 KO did not live with petitioner in Neenah (although she visited petitioner on weekends); during that time period KO lived with her grandfather in Racine, Wisconsin.
6. During the time period October 2010 to April 2014 KO was included as part of petitioner's FS household and petitioner received FS for KO.
7. The County established the following 5 Claims against petitioner for overpayments of FS during the time period May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2014 in the total amount of \$4,575.00:
 - (a) Claim Number ; \$1,864.00;
 - (b) Claim Number ; \$316.00;
 - (c) Claim Number ; \$474.00;
 - (d) Claim Number ; \$891.00; and,
 - (e) Claim Number ; \$1,030.00.

DISCUSSION

The basic definition of a *household* for purposes of FS is a group of individuals who live together and customarily purchase food and prepare meals together for home consumption. 7 C.F.R. §§ 273.1(a)(3) (2011); *FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook* ["FSWH"] 3.3.1.1. This matter must be decided by a preponderance of the credible evidence. Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.09(4) (February 2013).

The County presented convincing and credible evidence that KO did not live with petitioner in Neenah during the time period in question (although she visited petitioner on weekends) and that, instead, she lived with her grandfather in Racine, Wisconsin. This evidence included statements made by petitioner during an investigation in April 2014, statements made by petitioner's neighbors (who share the same duplex with petitioner) during an investigation in April 2014, statements made by KO's grandfather during an investigation in April 2014, a written statement from KO's grandfather dated April 16, 2014, a statement made by KO on April 8, 2014 as recorded in computer *Case Comments*, the fact that KO is

registered to vote in Racine, Wisconsin, and the fact, undisputed, that petitioner attends school, in Racine, Wisconsin.

Petitioner testified that she was the “caretaker” of KO, that her neighbors are never at home and cannot say who is living with her, that the investigator only went in the front room of her house, and that she would visit KO in Racine. Petitioner’s boyfriend testified that they are having a feud with the neighbors that the investigator spoke with. None of this testimony is convincing and not all of it is credible. The preponderance of the credible evidence in the record of this matter is that KO did not live with petitioner in Neenah during the time period in question (although she visited petitioner on weekends) and that, instead, she lived with her grandfather in Racine, Wisconsin.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

For the reasons discussed above, it was correct to establish the following 5 Claims against petitioner for overpayments of FS during the time period May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2014 in the total amount of \$4,575.00:

- (a) Claim Number [REDACTED]; \$1,864.00;
- (b) Claim Number [REDACTED]; \$316.00;
- (c) Claim Number [REDACTED]; \$474.00;
- (d) Claim Number [REDACTED]; \$891.00; and,
- (e) Claim Number [REDACTED]; \$1,030.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

ORDERED

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

REQUEST FOR A REHEARING

You may request a rehearing if you think this decision is based on a serious mistake in the facts or the law or if you have found new evidence that would change the decision. Your request must be **received within 20 days after the date of this decision**. Late requests cannot be granted.

Send your request for rehearing in writing to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, 5005 University Avenue, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53705-5400 **and** to those identified in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST." Your rehearing request must explain what mistake the Administrative Law Judge made and why it is important or you must describe your new evidence and explain why you did not have it at your first hearing. If your request does not explain these things, it will be denied.

The process for requesting a rehearing may be found at Wis. Stat. § 227.49. A copy of the statutes may be found online or 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 filed with the Court **and** served either personally or by certified mail on the Secretary of the Department of Health Services, 1 West Wilson Street, Room 651, Madison, Wisconsin 53703, **and** on those identified in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST" **no more than 30 days after the date of this decision** or 30 days after a denial of a timely rehearing (if you request one).

The process for Circuit Court Appeals may be found at Wis. Stat. §§ 227.52 and 227.53. A copy of the statutes may be found online or at your local library or courthouse.

Given under my hand at the City of Madison,
Wisconsin, this 4th day of August, 2014

\sSean P. Maloney
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 August 4, 2014.

Winnebago County Department of Human Services
Public Assistance Collection Unit
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability