



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
Division of Hearings and Appeals

In the Matter of

*Redact*

DECISION

MDD/161884

**PRELIMINARY RECITALS**

Pursuant to a petition filed July 29, 2014, under Wis. Stat. § 49.45(5), and Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.03(1), to review a decision by the Rock County Department of Social Services in regard to Medical Assistance, a hearing was held on February 10, 2015, at Janesville, Wisconsin.

The issue for determination is whether petitioner is disabled for purposes of state medical assistance.

There appeared at that time and place the following persons:

**PARTIES IN INTEREST:**

Petitioner:

*Redact*

Petitioner's Representative:

*Redact*

Respondent:

Department of Health Services  
1 West Wilson Street, Room 651  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703  
By: No Appearance

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:**

John P. Tedesco  
Division of Hearings and Appeals

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Petitioner is a resident of Rock County.
2. Petitioner applied for MA on April 3, 2014.
3. Petitioner has received medical interventions for bipolar disorder and panic/anxiety. Petitioner sees her psychiatrist approximately every six month but does not see a counselor or other professional regularly. Petitioner describes that she believes she is doing well and her condition has been improving.

4. Petitioner has a high school diploma.
5. Petitioner graduated in 2012 and has never held a job.
6. Petitioner could drive but does not have a valid license.
7. Petitioner dresses herself and is able to feed herself.
8. The DDB found petitioner not disabled. The Department denied her application by notice dated 8/20/14.

### DISCUSSION

To be eligible for MA, an adult female under age 65 must be disabled, blind, pregnant, or the caretaker of minor children. Wis. Stat., §§49.46(1) and 49.47(4). To qualify as disabled, a person must meet the definition of that term as it is used for SSI purposes. Wis. Stat., §49.47(4)(a)4.

The applicable SSI disability standards are found in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 20, Part 416, Subpart I, and by reference Appendices 1 and 2, Subpart P, Part 404. Specifically, to be disabled means to be unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity because of a medically determinable physical or mental condition which will, or has, lasted at least twelve months. To determine if this definition is met, the applicant's current employment status, the severity of her medical condition, and her ability to return to vocationally relevant past work or to adapt to new forms of employment are evaluated in that sequence. 20 C.F.R. §§416.905 and 416.920.

The SSI regulations require a five-step process. First, if the person is working at a job that is considered to be substantial gainful employment, she is found to be not disabled without further review. If she is not working, the DDB must determine if she has a "severe impairment." A severe impairment is one that limits a person's ability to do basic work activities. 20 C.F.R. §416.921. The DDB found that petitioner is not working and that she has a severe impairment.

The third step is to determine if the impairment meets or equals a listed impairment found at Appendix 1, Subpart P, Part 404. The listings are impairments that are disabling without additional review. 20 C.F.R. §416.925(a).

The fourth and fifth steps occur if the impairments do not meet the listings, which they do not in this case. The DDB must determine whether the person is able to perform past jobs. If not, then the agency must determine if the person can do *any other types of work in the society* that would be considered substantial gainful activity. 20 C.F.R. §416.960.

Petitioner described social anxiety and bipolar as her great challenges. The problem for petitioner is that it appears she can work. She conceded that she could work a job if given time to adjust. She also testified that she is currently doing volunteer work at the humane society. Petitioner's testimony suggested that her real burden is the application process and fear of failure and rejection. There does not appear to be a barrier to her doing low-stress work with minimal human interaction.

Petitioner stated that she applied for disability-MA based on some mailing she received. She suspected she would not qualify but reasoned that she would never know unless she tried.

I also note that the DDB cited Rule 202.20, which is found at Appendix 2 at 20 C.F.R., Part 404, Subpart P. That rule indicates that a person with a high school education but no work history is to be determined not disabled. Petitioner's MA application and testimony indicates no work history.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Petitioner is not disabled for purposes of state medical assistance eligibility.

**THEREFORE, it is ORDERED**

That this appeal is 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 12th day of February, 2015

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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 12, 2015.

Rock County Department of Social Services  
Disability Determination Bureau

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