



STATE OF WISCONSIN
Division of Hearings and Appeals

In the Matter of

Redacted case name

DECISION

FTI/164453

PRELIMINARY RECITALS

Pursuant to a petition filed March 6, 2015, under Wis. Stat. § 49.85(4), and Wis. Admin. Code §§ HA 3.03(1), (3), to review a decision by the Public Assistance Collection Unit in regard to FoodShare benefits (FS), a hearing was held on April 1, 2015, by telephone.

The issue for determination are (1) whether petitioner's appeal was timely, and (2) whether the Department correctly sought to intercept the petitioner's state income tax refund to collect an overpayment of FoodShare benefits.

There appeared at that time the following persons:

PARTIES IN INTEREST:

Petitioner:

Redacted petitioner name

Respondent:

Department of Health Services
1 West Wilson Street, Room 651
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

By: Redacted, PARIS agent
Public Assistance Collection Unit
P.O. Box 8939
Madison, WI 53708-8938

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

Nancy J. Gagnon
Division of Hearings and Appeals

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Petitioner (CARES # Redacted) is a resident of Georgia.
2. On February 14, 2014, the Department sent a written notice of negative action to the petitioner at her correct address.

3. The petitioner filed a hearing request with the department on March 6, 2015.
4. The negative action in this case was notification of state income tax refund interception. Specifically, the interception notice states that an unpaid FS debt of \$6,747.00 remained for possible interception. The notice also advised the petitioner to file an appeal of the interception certification within 30 days of the February 14, 2014, notice.
5. The Department recovered a portion (\$1,018.98) of the overpayment from the petitioner's federal income tax refund in July 2014. No other payments have been made. This leaves a current balance of \$5,728.02 remaining for collection.
6. The petitioner's assertion that she did not receive either the February 2014 interception notice, or the September 16, 2013 initial overpayment notice, was not credible.
7. The petitioner does not contest that she was overpaid in Wisconsin FS from November 2010 through September 2013.

### DISCUSSION

A hearing officer can only hear cases on the merits if there is jurisdiction to do so. There is no jurisdiction if a hearing request is untimely. An appeal of a negative action by a county agency concerning FS must normally be filed within 90 days. 7 C.F.R. § 273.15. An appeal from a state tax refund interception notice must be filed within **30** days of the date of the interception notice. Wis. Stat. §49.85(3)(a)2. The petitioner's March 2015 appeal is more than 30 days from the February 14, 2014 interception notice. Thus, no jurisdiction exists for me to review the correctness of the 2014 interception decision.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The petitioner's March 2015 appeal was untimely with respect to the Department's February 2014 refund interception certification.

**THEREFORE, it is**

**ORDERED**

That the petition 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 2nd day of April, 2015

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\sNancy J. Gagnon  
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 April 2, 2015.

Public Assistance Collection Unit  
Public Assistance Collection Unit