



FH
[REDACTED]

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Division of Hearings and Appeals

In the Matter of

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DECISION

FOO/165807

PRELIMINARY RECITALS

Pursuant to a petition filed May 01, 2015, under Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.03(1), to review a decision by the Winnebago County Department of Human Services in regard to FoodShare benefits (FS), a hearing was held on May 21, 2015, at Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The issue for determination is whether Petitioner's FoodShare allotment has been correctly calculated.

There appeared at that time and place the following persons:

PARTIES IN INTEREST:

Petitioner:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Respondent:

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

By: Jeanie Ortiz

Winnebago County Department of Human Services
220 Washington Ave.
PO Box 2187
Oshkosh, WI 54903-2187

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

David D. Fleming
Division of Hearings and Appeals

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner (CARES # [REDACTED]) is a resident of Winnebago County.
2. Petitioner filed this appeal to contest a reduction in the amount of his FoodShare benefit; it went from \$194 to \$79.00.

3. Petitioner's case was reviewed in late March 2015. At that time he demonstrated that his two children reside with him and they were added to his FoodShare case. This made the group size 3.
4. The agency used the following income in determining Petitioner's FoodShare allotment: total income of \$1680.21 consisting of Petitioner's State and Federal SSI benefits of \$863.43, child support of \$83.78 and his son's SSI of \$733.00.
5. The agency used the following expenses in determining Petitioner's FoodShare allotment: a standard deduction of \$155.00, support payments of \$86.57, rent of \$500.00 and the telephone utility standard of \$30.00.

DISCUSSION

To receive FoodShare benefits a household must have income below gross and net income limits though the gross income test does not apply where a household has an elderly blind or disabled member. *7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), §273.9(b); FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook (FSH), § 1.1.4.* The agency must budget all income of the FS household, including all earned and unearned income. *7 CFR § 273.9(b); FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook (FSH), § 4.3.1.* The allotment calculation is based on prospectively budgeted monthly income using estimated amounts. *FSH, §4.1.1.*

The gross income limit for a household of one is \$1946. *FSH, §8.1.1.1.* Petitioner's gross income is less than this.

If a household passes the gross income test, the following deductions are applied (*FSH, at § 4.6*):

- (1) a standard deduction - which currently is \$155 per month for a household of 1-3 persons, *7 CFR § 273.9(d)(1)*;
- (2) an earned income deduction - which equals 20% of the household's total earned income, *7 CFR § 273.9(d)(2)*;
- (3) certain medical expenses – for medical expenses exceeding \$35 in a month for an elderly or disabled person, *7 CFR § 273.9(d)(3)*;
- (4) dependent care deduction for child care expenses, *7 CFR § 273.9(d)(4)*; and
- (5) shelter and utility expenses deduction – the utility expense requires that a household have an actual utility obligation and is a standard deduction based on that obligation (\$30 where it is phone only); the deduction is equal to the excess expense above 50% of net income remaining after other deductions. *7 CFR § 273.9(d)(5).* There is a cap of \$478.00 on the shelter cost deduction unless a household has an elderly [60 or older], blind or disabled member. *FSH, §§ 4.6.7.3 and 8.1.3.*

Here Petitioner did not believe that the child support is correct but I note that it does come directly from the account printouts from child support. Further, Petitioner does not think it fair to count his son's Social Security when it is paid to the mother and he has no access to it.

The agency contends that the money follows the child. This is not quite correct. The FSH does indicate that only available income is counted for the FoodShare program. *FSH, §4.1.1.* The problem here is that there is no showing that Petitioner has taken steps to become the payee or that the mother of the child has refused to provide Petitioner with any of the son's Social Security. He may certainly provide that information to the agency and if it declines to accept it, he may again request a hearing.

In reviewing the rest of the calculation of Petitioner's FoodShare allotment, I find no errors.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

That the available evidence indicates that the agency correctly determined Petitioner's FoodShare allotment.

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 Milwaukee,
Wisconsin, this 29th day of June, 2015

\sDavid D. Fleming
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 June 29, 2015.

Winnebago County Department of Human Services
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability