



STATE OF WISCONSIN
Division of Hearings and Appeals

In the Matter of



DECISION
Case #: MOP - 173848

PRELIMINARY RECITALS

Pursuant to a petition filed on April 25, 2016, under Wis. Stat. § 49.45(5), and Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.03(1), to review a decision by the Milwaukee Enrollment Services regarding Medical Assistance, a hearing was held on October 12, 2016, by telephone from Madison, Wisconsin. Two previously scheduled hearings were rescheduled at petitioner's request.

The issue for determination is whether the respondent correctly established an overpayment of MA benefits to petitioner.

There appeared at that time the following persons:

PARTIES IN INTEREST:

Petitioner:



Respondent:

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

By: [Redacted]
Milwaukee Enrollment Services
1220 W Vliet St
Milwaukee, WI 53205

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

Peter McCombs
Division of Hearings and Appeals

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Petitioner (CARES # [Redacted]) is a resident of Milwaukee County.

2. The county agency discovered that an error had occurred with respect to petitioner's MA benefits because the petitioner failed to report income.
3. On April 4, 2016, the county agency issued a Notification of MA Overissuance to petitioner (██████████) informing her that she was overissued \$2,349.97 in MA benefits from March 1, 2015, through May 31, 2015, due to client error in failing to report income correctly.
4. On April 25, 2016, petitioner filed an appeal with the Division of Hearings & Appeals.

DISCUSSION

The Department seeks to recover \$2,349.97 in BadgerCare Plus benefits paid on the petitioner's behalf from March 1, 2015, through May 31, 2015. BadgerCare Plus is Wisconsin's medical assistance program for those who are not elderly or disabled. Adults are ineligible if their household income exceeds the federal poverty level. Wis. Stat. § 49.471(4)(a). The department may recover any overpayment of BadgerCare Plus that occurs because of a "misstatement or omission of fact by a person supplying information in an application..." Wis. Stat. § 49.497(1).

At hearing, the county worker proved with a preponderance of the evidence that an overpayment occurred because petitioner's income was not correctly reported, and therefore not correctly budgeted to determine the household's MA benefits.

At the hearing, petitioner did not contest that she failed to properly report her income and/or that the county agency calculations were incorrect. Rather, she indicated that she had been ill for an extended period of time, and that she was simply unaware of the income limit and reporting requirements. She testified credibly that this was an honest mistake, and that she cannot afford to repay this amount.

The petitioner has in effect argued that the program standard is unfair and that the administrative law judge should grant her relief from the program requirements. It is the long-standing policy of the Division of Hearings & Appeals, Work & Family Services Unit, that the Department's assigned administrative law judges do not possess equitable powers to address questions of fairness or, in the instant case, affordability of debt. See, Wisconsin Socialist Workers 1976 Campaign Committee v. McCann, 433 F.Supp. 540, 545 (E.D. Wis.1977). This office must limit its review to the law as set forth in statutes, federal regulations, and administrative code provisions. Under law, she was not eligible for the program when her income exceeded program limits; no exception applies, and I am without any equitable powers to direct any remedy beyond the remedies available under law.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Petitioner was overissued \$2,349.97 of MA benefits which are subject to recovery.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is **ORDERED**

That the matter herein be and 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, **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 24th day of October, 2016

\s _____
Peter McCombs
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 October 24, 2016.

Milwaukee Enrollment Services
Public Assistance Collection Unit
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability