

Notice of Decision in Lawsuit Against the Department of Human Services (DHS)

Barry v. Lyon, Case No. 13-cv-13185

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan Southern Division

If you do not understand this, call 877-522-8050
Si usted no entiende esto, llame a 877-522-8050
855-275-8050 رقم الاتصال بالبريد ، هذا هفت ال تنك إذا

You may now be able to get the cash, food or child care benefits you were denied or cut off of by the Department of Human Services (DHS), now called the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

Will this court case help me?

If you received a notice from DHS that said you could not get benefits because of a “criminal justice disqualification,” you may now be eligible to get benefits.

Most people who received such a notice will receive a letter in the mail, telling them about how to request your benefits. If you think you received a “criminal justice disqualification” notice but you did not receive a letter, call 313-578-6826 on or before **October 27, 2015**.

How can I get my benefits now?

Apply online at www.mibridges.michigan.gov or

Apply on paper. Applications are available at your local DHHS office or you can print them off at www.michigan.gov/MDHHS (Click on Popular Forms/Assistance Application).

Call 877-522-8050 or visit your local DHHS office if you need more help applying for benefits.

How can I get my Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits for past months?

You have the right to file a Claim Form to request back benefits. To file a claim, use the Food Assistance Program Claim Form available at aclumich.org/publicbenefits, or get the form at your DHHS office or by calling 313-578-6826.

The deadline for claim forms is the date on the letter DHHS sent to you or, if DHHS did not send a letter to your correct address, the deadline is December 1, 2015.

How can I get my cash or child care benefits for past months (SDA, FIP, CDC, or RAP)?

If you think DHHS was wrong in denying or stopping your benefits, you have the right to request a hearing. To request a hearing, use the form available at aclumich.org/publicbenefits, or get the form at your DHHS office or by calling 313-578-6826.

The deadline for hearing requests is the date on the letter DHHS sent to you or, if DHHS did not send a letter to your correct address, the deadline is December 1, 2015.

What did the court decide in the lawsuit?

The court decided the “criminal justice disqualification” notices DHHS sent to some people beginning in December 2012 violate a federal law and the Constitution. In the future DHHS must send a more complete notice.

The court decided DHHS cannot deny or cut off Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits because a person has an outstanding felony warrant unless DHHS also determines that (a) the person is intentionally fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody, or jail/prison and (b) law enforcement officials are actively seeking the person.

The court also decided that DHHS must pay the attorneys who brought this case. When a motion for fees is filed, notice will be posted at aclumich.org/publicbenefits.

Questions?

Call the local, free legal services or legal aid near you **or** call 313-578-6826. To find your local, free legal services office, go to <http://michiganlegalhelp.org/> (click on Find a Lawyer) or look in your yellow pages under Attorneys.

More information about the case is available at aclumich.org/publicbenefits. You can get copies of this notice, the forms to apply for benefits, the court’s opinion and order, and updates on the case on the website. You can also call 313-578-6826 to request paper copies.