



State of West Virginia  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES  
Office of Inspector General  
Board of Review  
2699 Park Avenue, Suite 100  
Huntington, WV 25704

Joe Manchin III  
Governor

Martha Yeager Walker  
Secretary

November 14, 2005

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Ms. \_\_\_\_\_:

Attached is a copy of the findings of fact and conclusions of law on your administrative disqualification hearing held November 9, 2005.

In arriving at a decision, the State Hearings Officer is governed by the Public Welfare Laws of West Virginia and the rules and regulations established by the Department of Health and Human Resources. These same laws and regulations are used in all cases to assure that all persons are treated alike.

For the purpose of determining, through an administrative disqualification hearing, whether or not a person has committed an intentional program violation, the following criteria will be used: Intentional program violation shall consist of having (1) made a false or misleading statement or misrepresented, concealed, or withheld facts or (2) committed any act that constitutes a violation of the Food Stamp Act, the Food Stamp regulations, or any statute relating to the use, presentation, transfer, acquisition, receipt, or possession of Food Stamp coupons (Section B. Appendix A Chapter 700 of Common Chapters Manual) Individuals found to have committed an intentional program violation shall be ineligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program for a fixed period of time as explained in section 20.2(c)(2) and 9.1 (A)(2)(g) of the WV Income Maintenance Manual and 7 CFR Section 273.16.

The information which was submitted at your hearing revealed that you committed an intentional program violation of the Food Stamp Program by failing to report that your daughter, Ashley, had left your home on June 28, 2005 causing an overissuance of Food Stamps in the amount of \$198 for the period of July through August, 2005.

It is the decision of the State Hearings Officer that you committed an Intentional Program Violation of the Food Stamp Program and you will be individually disqualified from participation in the Food Stamp Program for a period of two (2) years beginning December, 2005.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Smith  
State Hearing Officer  
Member, State Board of Review

cc: Erika H. Young, Chairman, Board of Review  
Brian Shreve, Repayment Investigator

**WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN RESOURCES  
BOARD OF REVIEW**

\_\_\_\_\_,

**Defendant,**

**v.**

**Action Number: 05-BOR-6713**

**West Virginia Department of  
Health and Human Resources**

**DECISION OF STATE HEARING OFFICER**

**I. INTRODUCTION:**

This is a report of the State Hearing Officer resulting from an administrative disqualification hearing concluded on November 9, 2005 for \_\_\_\_\_. This hearing was held in accordance with the provisions found in the Common Chapters Manual, Chapter 700 of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. It should be noted that the defendant did not attend the hearing but the hearing was convened in her absence as an appointment letter was sent by regular mail on October 3, 2005 notifying her of the date, time, and location of the hearing and the defendant had an active Food Stamp and Medicaid case at the time the appointment notice was mailed.

**II. PROGRAM PURPOSE:**

The Program entitled Food Stamp Program is set up cooperatively between the Federal and State governments and administered by the West Virginia Department of Health & Human Resources.

The purpose of the Food Stamp Program is to provide an effective means of utilizing the nation's abundance of food "to safeguard the health and well-being of the nation's population and raise levels of nutrition among low-income households.". This is accomplished through the issuance of EBT benefits to households who meet the eligibility criteria established by the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture

**III. PARTICIPANTS:**

1. Brian Shreve, Repayment Investigator.

Presiding at the Hearing was Thomas M. Smith, State Hearing Officer and a member of the State Board of Review.

**IV. QUESTIONS TO BE DECIDED:**

The question to be decided is whether it was shown by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant, \_\_\_\_\_, committed an intentional program violation of the Food Stamp Program.

**V. APPLICABLE POLICY:**

WV Income Maintenance Manual Section 1.2, 9.1, 10.3, 10.4, 20.2.  
Federal Food Stamp Regulations Sections 273.9, 273.16.  
Common Chapters Manual Section 700, Appendix A.

**VI. LISTING OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE ADMITTED:**

**Department's Exhibits:**

- A Copy of federal Food Stamp regulations 273.16 (10 pages).
- B Copy of benefit recovery referral.
- C Copy of Food Stamp Claim determination (7 pages).
- D Copy of case comments 7-20-05 and 8-9-05.
- D1 Copy of DHS from Melanie Lawson to \_\_\_\_\_ 7-7-05 (4 pages).
- D2 Copy of BCSE narrative 7-7-05.
- E Copy of Combined Application/Review form 7-5-05 (11 pages).
- E1 Copy of case comments 7-5-05 and 7-11-05 (2 pages).
- G Copy of On-Line Query from Office of Inspector General.
- H Copy of WV Income Maintenance Manual Section 1.2.
- I Copy of WV Income Maintenance Manual Section 2.2 (2 pages).
- J Copy of WV Income Maintenance Manual Section 20.2 (6 pages).
- K Copy of WV Income Maintenance Manual Section 20.6.
- L Copy of notification of intent to disqualify 8-23-05 (4 pages).

**VII. FINDINGS OF FACT:**

- 1) The Investigations and Fraud Management (IFM) Unit received a referral that the defendant failed to report that her daughter had left the home causing an overissuance of Food Stamps.
- 2) The defendant's daughter left her home on 6-28-05 when a court hearing in Family Court awarded immediate custody to the father (Exhibit #D-1) and the Bureau for Child Support Enforcement (BCSE) notified the Income Maintenance Worker on 7-7-05 that Ashley left the home on 6-28-05 (Exhibits #D and #D1).
- 3) A Food Stamp overissuance occurred for the period of July and August, 2005 in the amount of \$198 (Exhibit # C) due to the unreported information.

- 4) The defendant applied for Food Stamps on 7-5-05 (Exhibit #E and #E1) and reported that her daughter, Ashley, was a member of the household when she actually had left her home on 6-28-05.
- 5) The defendant completed an application/review form on 7-5-05 and signed the rights and responsibilities acknowledging her understanding of her reporting requirements and the penalties for intentional program violation (Exhibit #E).
- 6) The defendant had a previous Intentional Program Violation disqualification (Exhibit #G) which counted as the first offense.
- 7) According to Common Chapters Manual, Chapter 700, Appendix A, Section B, an intentional program violation consists of having intentionally made a false statement, or misrepresented, concealed or withheld facts, or committed any act that constitutes a violation of the Food Stamp Act, the Food Stamp Program Regulations, or any statute relating to the use, presentation, transfer, acquisition, receipt or possession of food stamp coupons.
- 8) WV Income Maintenance Manual Section 20.2, C, 2 states that once an IPV is established, a disqualification penalty is imposed on the AG member(s) who committed the IPV. See Section 9.1, A, 2, g.
- 9) WV Income Maintenance Manual Section 9.1, A, 2, g states that persons who have been found guilty of an IPV are ineligible as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> offense: 1 year, 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: 2 years, 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: permanent.

### **VIII. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

Common Chapters Section 700, Appendix A defines an intentional program violation as having intentionally made a false statement or concealed or withheld facts. The defendant concealed information about her daughter leaving her home on 6-28-05 and reported that she was a household member when she applied for Food Stamps on 7-5-05. The claimant intentionally concealed information in order to receive a Food Stamp amount for which she was not eligible. The claimant committed an intentional program violation which caused a Food Stamp overissuance of \$198 for the period of July through August, 2005.

### **IX. DECISION:**

It is the decision of the State Hearing Officer that the defendant committed an intentional program violation of the Food Stamp Program and she will be individually disqualified from participation in the Food Stamp Program for a period of two (2) years beginning December, 2005.

### **X. RIGHT OF APPEAL:**

See Attachment

**XI. ATTACHMENTS:**

The Claimant's Recourse to Hearing Decision

Form IG-BR-29

**ENTERED this 14th Day of November, 2005.**

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**Thomas M. Smith**  
**State Hearing Officer**