



**State of West Virginia
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
Office of Inspector General
Board of Review
150 Maplewood Avenue
Lewisburg, WV 24901**

Joe Manchin III
Governor

Martha Yeager Walker
Secretary

December 29, 2005

Dear Mr. & Mrs. _____:

Attached is a copy of the findings of fact and conclusions of law on your hearing held October 12, 2005. Your hearing request was based on the Department of Health and Human Resources' proposal to terminate benefits under the SSI-Related Medicaid Program.

In arriving at a decision, the State Hearing 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.

Eligibility for the SSI-Related Medicaid Program is based on current policy and regulations. Some of these regulations state as follows: Spenddown cases are not redetermined and are closed at the end of the 6th month of the POC. The client must reapply for a new POC. (Section 1.22 N #2 of the West Virginia Income Maintenance Manual)

The information which was submitted at your hearing revealed that you met a spenddown and your POC ended 08/31/05. You must reapply for a new period of consideration.

It is the decision of the State Hearing Officer to uphold the proposal of the Department to terminate benefits under the SSI-Related Medicaid Program.

Sincerely,

Margaret M. Mann
State Hearing Officer
Member, State Board of Review

cc: Erika H. Young, Chairman, Board of Review
Murriel Hylton, DHHR

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

_____,
Claimants,

Action Number: 05-BOR-6514

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

Respondent.

DECISION OF STATE HEARING OFFICER

I. INTRODUCTION:

This is a report of the State Hearing Officer resulting from a fair hearing concluded on October 12, 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. This fair hearing was convened on October 12, 2005 on a timely appeal, filed, August 26, 2005.

It should be noted here that the claimant's benefits have been continued pending the hearing decision.

II. PROGRAM PURPOSE:

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

SSI Related Medicaid is a segment of the Medicaid Program available to individuals who meet the requirement of categorical relatedness by qualifying as either aged, disabled, or blind as those terms are defined by the Social Security Administration for purposes of eligibility for SSI.

III. PARTICIPANTS:

_____, Claimant
Murriel Hylton, Department Hearing Representative

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

IV. QUESTIONS TO BE DECIDED:

The question(s) to be decided is whether or not the Department is correct in the decision to discontinue the claimants' medical card because the period of consideration ended.

V. APPLICABLE POLICY:

Sections 1.22N #2, 1.22R #2d, 10.22C and Appendix A. Chapter 10 of the West Virginia Income Maintenance Manual

VI. LISTING OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE ADMITTED:

Department's Exhibits:

- D-1 Form IG-BR-29 Hearing/Grievance Record Information
- D-2 Hearing Request 08/26/05
- D-3 Notification Letter dated 08/19/05
- D-4 Sections 1.22N and 1.22R of the West Virginia Income Maintenance Manual
- D-5 Department's Summary

VII. FINDINGS OF FACT:

- 1) The claimants are recipients of Medicaid. They are eligible based on the fact a spenddown was met. The Period of Consideration (POC) ended 08/31/05.
- 2) A closure notice was mailed 08/19/05 due to the fact the coverage was ending, A hearing was requested on this matter.
- 3) The claimants will need to reapply for benefits as the POC has ended.
- 4) Testimony revealed that the claimants do not currently have enough bills to meet another spenddown.
- 5) **Section 1.22 N #2 of the West Virginia Income Maintenance Manual reads in part:**

Spenddown cases are not redetermined and are closed at the end of the 6th month of the POC. The client must reapply for a new POC.
- 6) **Section 1.22 R #2d of the West Virginia Income Maintenance Manual reads:**

Spenddown AG=s are mailed a computer-generated letter at adverse action notice deadline of the 6th month to the POC. This letter informs the client that his eligibility will end on the last day of the month and that he must reapply for Medicaid coverage.

7) Appendix A, Chapter 10 of the West Virginia Income Maintenance Manual reads:

The MNIL for a two person assistance group is \$275.00.

8) Section 10.22C of the West Virginia Income Maintenance Manual reads in part:

If the net countable monthly income is equal to or less than the appropriate MNIL, the AG is eligible without a spenddown. If it is excess of the appropriate MNIL, the AG must meet a spenddown.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

- 1) Policy dictates that spenddown cases are not redetermined and are closed at the end of the 6th month of the POC. Also, the computer generated letter mailed to the client notifies him of case closure and his right to reapply for Medicaid.
- 2) The claimants met a spenddown and the POC ended 08/31/05.
- 3) The claimants must reapply for a new POC.

IX. DECISION:

It is the finding of the State Hearing Officer that the claimants' case should have been closed at the end of the Period of Consideration (POC) which was 08/31/05. The Department is upheld in the proposal to discontinue the claimants' medical card under the SSI-Related Medicaid Program. Action will be taken as described in the notification letter dated August 19, 2005.

X. RIGHT OF APPEAL:

See Attachment

XI. ATTACHMENTS:

The Claimant's Recourse to Hearing Decision

Form IG-BR-29

ENTERED this 29th Day of December, 2005.

**Margaret M. Mann
State Hearing Officer**