



STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 11729  
Albany, NY 12211

## Notice of Decision

Decision Date: June 21, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]  
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000014627

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

On June 15, 2017, you appeared by telephone at a hearing on your appeal of NY State of Health's December 12, 2016 eligibility determination and disenrollment notices.

The enclosed Decision, rendered after that hearing, is issued by the Appeals Unit of NY State of Health.

If you have questions about your Decision, you can contact us by:

- Calling the Customer Service Center at 1-855-355-5777
- Sending Mail to:  
NY State of Health Appeals  
P.O. Box 11729  
Albany, NY 12211
- Sending a Fax to 1-855-900-5557

When contacting NY State of Health about your appeal and/or the Decision, please refer to the Appeal Identification number and the Account ID at the top of this notice.

### Legal Authority

We are sending you this notice in accordance with 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 155.545.

If you need this information in a language other than English or you need assistance reading this notice, we can help you. Call 1-855-355-5777 (TTY - English: 1-800-662-1220) (TTY - Spanish: 1-877-662-4886).

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## Decision

Decision Date: June 21, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]  
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000014627



## Issue

The issue presented for review by the Appeals Unit of NY State of Health is:

Did NY State of Health properly determine that your youngest child's eligibility for and enrollment in Child Health Plus terminated effective December 31, 2016?

## Procedural History

On September 6, 2016, your youngest child (child) was added to your NY State of Health (NYSOH) account and an application was submitted on her behalf.

On September 7, 2016, NYSOH issued a notice of eligibility determination stating your child was eligible to enroll in Child Health Plus for a limited time with a \$30.00 per month premium, effective October 1, 2016. The notice directed you to provide documentation confirming her citizenship status and Social Security number before December 5, 2016.

Also on September 7, 2016, NYSOH issued a notice confirming your child's enrollment in a Child Health Plus plan.

On December 12, 2016, NYSOH issued an eligibility determination notice stating your child was not eligible for Medicaid, Child Health Plus, or to receive tax credits or cost-sharing reductions to help pay for the cost of insurance. She also could not enroll in a qualified health plan at full cost because you had not confirmed her citizenship status and Social Security number within the required timeframe.

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Also on December 12, 2016, NYSOH issued a disenrollment notice stating your child's coverage in her Child Health Plus plan would end, effective December 31, 2016, because she was no longer eligible to enroll in health insurance through NYSOH.

On December 20, 2017, NYSOH issued an eligibility determination notice, based on your December 19, 2016 updated application, stating your child was eligible to enroll in Child Health Plus for a limited time with a \$30.00 per month premium, effective February 1, 2017. The notice directed you to provide documentation confirming her citizenship status and Social Security number before March 19, 2017.

Also on December 20, 2016, NYSOH issued an enrollment confirmation notice, based on your December 19, 2016 plan selection, stating your child was enrolled in a Child Health Plus plan, effective February 1, 2017.

On January 5, 2017, you spoke to NYSOH's Account Review Unit and appealed your child's disenrollment from her Child Health Plus plan in the month of January 2017.

On June 15, 2017, you had a telephone hearing with a Hearing Officer from NYSOH's Appeals Unit. The record was developed during the hearing and closed at the end of the hearing.

## **Findings of Fact**

A review of the record supports the following findings of fact:

- 1) You testified you are only appealing your youngest child's disenrollment from her Child Health Plus plan for the month of January 2017.
- 2) Your account confirms your child was added to your account on September 6, 2016. The application that was submitted that day indicates that she was a U.S Citizen but she did not have a Social Security number because you were in the process of applying for one.
- 3) You testified your child had not yet been issued a Social Security number at the time you submitted her initial application.
- 4) You testified you did not receive the September 7, 2016 notice issued by NYSOH advising you that your child's eligibility was only conditional and directing you to submit documentation of her citizenship status and Social Security number by December 5, 2016.

- 5) You testified that you did not know you had to submit your child's Social Security number to confirm her eligibility.
- 6) Your account confirms that NYSOH did not receive your child's Social Security number by December 5, 2016.
- 7) NYSOH issued a disenrollment notice on December 12, 2016 indicating your child's coverage would end on December 31, 2016 because she was no longer eligible to remain in the plan. You testified you do not recall receiving this notice.
- 8) You testified you learned your child had been disenrolled from her Child Health Plus plan when you receive a notice from your child's health plan in early January 2017.
- 9) Your account indicates that an updated application was submitted on your child's behalf on December 19, 2016. She was again determined only continually eligible for Child Health Plus, because the application did not include her Social Security number.
- 10) According to your account, a request for enrollment was submitted on your child's behalf on December 19, 2016 and this new enrollment became effective February 1, 2017.
- 11) You testified, and your account confirms, your child had a gap in health coverage for the month of January 2017.
- 12) Your account was updated with your child's Social Security number on January 24, 2017 and your child was determined fully eligible for Child Health Plus, effective March 1, 2017.
- 13) You testified your child has outstanding medical bills from the month of January 2017.
- 14) You testified that you are seeking reinstatement for your child in her Child Health Plus plan as of January 1, 2017, because you did not receive adequate notice that your child's health coverage would be terminated if you did not submit her Social Security number.
- 15) Notes in your account from June 7, 2017 include:
  - a. "Fidelis has agreed to backdate [child] from 2/1/17 to 1/1/17. Transactions have been requested to show that change."
- 16) You testified you have no knowledge of NYSOH or your child's health plan agreeing to back date her coverage to January 1, 2017.

Conflicting evidence, if any, was considered and found to be less credible than the evidence noted above.

## **Applicable Law and Regulations**

### Child Health Plus

A child who meets the eligibility requirements for Child Health Plus may be eligible to receive a subsidy payment if the child resides in a household with a household income at or below 400% of the federal poverty level (FPL) (New York Public Health Law (PHL) § 2511(2)(a)(iii)).

To be eligible for Child Health Plus, the child:

- Must be under 19 years of age;
- Must be a New York State Resident;
- Must not have other health insurance coverage; and
- Must not be eligible for, or enrolled in, Medicaid

(NY PHL § 2511(2)(a)-(e)).

As a condition of eligibility for Child Health Plus, an individual, including children, must furnish their Social Security Number and evidence of their citizenship or status as a qualified immigrant or PRUCOL alien to NY State of Health for verification purposes (42 CFR § 435.910(a) and (b)(3); 42 CFR § 457.340(b); 18 NYCRR § 360-3.2(j)(2) and (3); see *generally* 18 NYCRR § 360-3.2(j)).

NYSOH must require an applicant who has a Social Security Number to provide the number but does not require an applicant's Social Security Number as a condition of enrollment for Child Health Plus if the applicant is not eligible to receive one or his or her number is not yet available (42 CFR § 457.340(b), 42 CFR § 435.910(h)(1); Model State Children's Health Insurance Program Plan, Section 4.1.9).

If an applicant attests to citizenship, status as a national, or lawful presence, and NYSOH is unable to verify such attestation, NY State of Health must then provide the applicant with 90 days to provide satisfactory documentary evidence. Notice is considered received five days after the date on the notice, unless the applicant demonstrates that he or she did not receive the notice within the five-day period (45 CFR § 155.315(c)(3), (f)(2)(i)).

If NYSOH remains unable to verify the citizenship attestation after the 90-day period ends, it must determine the applicant's eligibility based on the information available (45 CFR § 155.315(f)(5)).

If you need this information in a language other than English or you need assistance reading this notice, we can help you. Call 1-855-355-5777 (TTY - English: 1-800-662-1220) (TTY – Spanish: 1-877-662-4886).

NYSOH is required to provide proper written notice to an applicant of any decision effecting an enrollee's Child Health Plus eligibility (42 CFR § 457.340(e)). When Child Health Plus coverage is denied, suspended or terminated NYSOH must provide sufficient notice to enable the child's parent or caretaker relative to take appropriate actions to allow Child Health Plus coverage to continue without interruption (42 CFR § 457.340(e)(2); 42 CFR § 457.1130(a)(3)).

The State of New York has provided that a child's period of eligibility for Child Health Plus begins on the first day of the month during which a child is eligible. A child will become eligible on the first day of the next month, if the application is received by the 15th of the month; applications received after the 15th day of the month will be processed for the first day of the second following month (see State Plan Amendment (SPA) NY-14-0005, approved February 3, 2015 and effective January 1, 2014).

## **Legal Analysis**

The issue under review is whether NYSOH properly determined your child's eligibility for and enrollment in Child Health Plus terminated effective December 31, 2016.

NYSOH is required to determine whether individuals are eligible to enroll in coverage through NYSOH, and must confirm, among other things, their Social Security number and citizenship status.

If NYSOH cannot verify an individual's citizenship status or Social Security number, it must provide the individual with notice of the inconsistency. NYSOH must then provide the individual with a period of 90 days from the date notice is received to resolve the inconsistency.

The record indicates that your youngest child was added to your NYSOH account on September 6, 2016. The application that was submitted that day indicates that she was a US Citizen, but she did not have a Social Security number because you were still in the process of applying for one.

In the eligibility determination issued on September 7, 2016 you were advised that your child's eligibility for Child Health Plus was only conditional, and that you needed to confirm her Social Security number and citizenship status before December 5, 2016.

You testified that you do not recall receiving notification from NYSOH directing you to provide your child's Social Security number. The record indicates you did not update your NYSOH account with your child's Social Security number until

January 24, 2017. Accordingly, NYSOH did not have her Social Security number before the December 5, 2016 deadline.

On December 12, 2016, NYSOH issued a disenrollment notice stating your youngest child's coverage in her Child Health Plus plan would end, effective December 31, 2016, because she was no longer eligible to enroll in health insurance through NYSOH. According to the eligibility determination issued on that day, this was because NYSOH did not receive documentation of her citizenship status and social security number.

When NYSOH denies, terminates, or suspends a child's Child Health Plus coverage, they are required to provide sufficient notice so that a child's parent can take action to prevent a gap in coverage for the child. Notice is considered received five days after the date on the notice. In this case, the notice formally disenrolling your child from her Child Health Plus plan was dated December 12, 2016. Therefore, the notice terminating your child's enrollment would be considered received as of December 17, 2016.

When changes are made to an individual's application after the 15th of any month, NYSOH must make the redetermination that results from a change effective the first day of the next following month. Since you would have received NYSOH's notice terminating your child's Child Health Plus eligibility after the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 2016, pursuant to the regulations, any changes you would have made to your account to prevent a gap in coverage would not have been effective until February 1, 2017.

Therefore, NYSOH failed to provide you with sufficient notice that would have allowed you to take action in order to prevent a gap in Child Health Plus coverage for your child for the month of January 2017 and the December 12, 2016 eligibility determination and disenrollment notices are RESCINDED.

## **Decision**

The December 12, 2016 eligibility determination and disenrollment notices are RESCINDED.

Your case is RETURNED to NYSOH to reinstate your youngest child into her Child Health Plus plan for the month of January 2017.

**Effective Date of this Decision:** June 21, 2017



## **How this Decision Affects Your Eligibility**

Your child should not have been terminated from her Child Health Plus plan in January 2017 for failure to submit proof of her citizenship status and Social Security number.

Your case is being sent back to NYSOH to reinstate your child into her Child Health Plus for the month of January 2017.

## **If You Disagree with this Decision (Appeal Rights)**

This Decision is final unless you submit an appeal request to the Federal Marketplace or bring a lawsuit under New York Civil Practice Law and Rules, Article 78.

You may bring a lawsuit on any Appeals Unit decision in New York State court in accordance with Article 78 of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules. This must be done within four months of the Decision Date, which appears on the first page of this Decision.

Additionally, Appeals Unit decisions on issues involving eligibility for qualified health plans, advance premium tax credits, and cost-sharing reductions may be appealed to the Federal Marketplace. This must be done within 30 days of the Decision Date, which appears on the first page of this Decision (45 CFR § 155.520(c)).

If you have questions about appealing to the Federal Marketplace, you can contact them in any of the following ways:

- By calling the Customer Service Center at 1-800-318-2596
- By mail at:  
Health Insurance Marketplace  
Attn: Appeals  
465 Industrial Blvd.  
London, KY 40750-0061
- By fax: 1-877-369-0129

If you wish to be represented by an attorney in bringing an outside appeal and do not know how to go about getting one, you may contact legal resources available to you. You may, for example, contact the local County Bar Association, Legal Aid, or Legal Services.

If you need this information in a language other than English or you need assistance reading this notice, we can help you. Call 1-855-355-5777 (TTY - English: 1-800-662-1220) (TTY – Spanish: 1-877-662-4886).

## **If You Have Questions about this Decision (Customer Service Resources):**

You can contact us in any of the following ways:

- By calling the Customer Service Center at 1-855-355-5777
- By mail at:  
NY State of Health Appeals  
P.O. Box 11729  
Albany, NY 12211
- By fax: 1-855-900-5557

## **Summary**

The December 12, 2016 eligibility determination and disenrollment notices are **RESCINDED**.

Your child should not have been terminated from her Child Health Plus plan in January 2017 for failure to submit proof of her citizenship status and Social Security number.

Your case is **RETURNED** to NYSOH to reinstate your child into her Child Health Plus plan for the month of January 2017.

## **Legal Authority**

We are issuing this determination in accordance with 45 CFR § 155.545.

**A Copy of this Decision Has Been Provided To:**



## Getting Help in a Language Other than English

This is an important document. If you need help to understand it, please call 1-855-355-5777. We can give you an interpreter for free in the language you speak.

### Español (Spanish)

Este es un documento importante. Si necesita ayuda para entenderlo, llame al 1-855-355-5777. Le proporcionaremos un intérprete sin ningún costo.

### 中文 (Traditional Chinese)

這是重要的文件。如果您需要獲得關於瞭解文件內容方面的協助，請致電 1-855-355-5777。我們可以為您免費提供您所使用語言的翻譯人員。

### Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole)

Sa a se yon dokiman ki enpòtan. Si ou bezwen èd pou konprann li, tanpri rele nimewo 1-855-355-5777. Nou kapab ba ou yon entèprèt gratis nan lang ou pale a.

### 中文 (Simplified Chinese)

这是一份重要的文件。如果您需要帮助理解此文件，请打电话至 1-855-355-5777。我们可以为您提供相应语种的口译服务。

### Italiano (Italian)

Questo è un documento importante. Per qualsiasi chiarimento può chiamare il numero 1-855-355-5777. Possiamo metterle a disposizione un interprete nella sua lingua.

### 한국어 (Korean)

중요한 서류입니다. 이해하는 데 도움이 필요하시면 1-855-355-5777 번으로 연락해 주십시오. 귀하의 언어에 대한 무료 통역 서비스가 제공됩니다.

### Русский (Russian)

Это важный документ. Если Вам нужна помощь для понимания этого документа, позвоните по телефону 1-855-355-5777. Мы можем бесплатно предоставить Вам переводчика Вашего языка.

### العربية (Arabic)

هذه وثيقة مهمة. إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مساعدة لفهم محتواها، يُرجى الاتصال بالرقم 1-855-355-5777. يُمكننا توفير مترجم فوري لك باللغة التي تتحدثها مجاناً.

### বাংলা (Bengali)

এটি এক গুরুত্বপূর্ণ নথি। এটি বুঝতে আপনার যদি সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয় তাহলে, অনুগ্রহ করে 1-855-355-5777 নম্বরে কল করুন। আপনি যে ভাষায় কথা বলেন বিনামূল্যে আমরা আপনাকে একজন দোভাষী দিতে পারি।

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## **Français (French)**

Ceci est un document important. Si vous avez besoin d'aide pour en comprendre le contenu, appelez le 1-855-355-5777. Nous pouvons mettre gratuitement à votre disposition un interprète dans votre langue.

## **हिंदी (Hindi)**

यह एक महत्वपूर्ण दस्तावेज़ है। अगर आपको इसे समझने में सहायता चाहिए, तो कृपया 1-855-355-5777 पर कॉल करें। हम आपकी भाषा बोलने वाला एक दुभाषिया निःशुल्क उपलब्ध करवा सकते हैं।

## **日本語 (Japanese)**

これは重要な書類です。理解するために支援が必要な場合は、1-855-355-5777 にお電話ください。通訳を無料で提供いたします。

## **नेपाली (Nepali)**

यो एउटा महत्वपूर्ण कागजात हो। यसलाई बुझ्न तपाईंलाई मद्दत चाहिन्छ भने, कृपया 1-855-355-5777 मा फोन गर्नुहोस्। हामीले तपाईंले बोल्ने भाषामा तपाईंलाई निःशुल्क दोभाषे उपलब्ध गराउन सक्छौं।

## **Polski (Polish)**

To jest ważny dokument. W przypadku konieczności skorzystania z pomocy w celu zrozumienia jego treści należy zadzwonić pod numer 1-855-355-5777. Istnieje możliwość uzyskania bezpłatnej usługi tłumacza języka, którym się posługujesz.

## **Twi (Twi)**

Krataa yi ye tow krataa a ho hia. Se wo hia eho nkyerekyeremu a, ye sre wo, fre 1-855-355-5777. ye&etumi ama wo obi a okyerE kasa a woka no ase ama wo kwa a wontua hwee.

## **(Urdu) اردو**

یہ ایک اہم دستاویز ہے۔ اگر آپ کو اسے سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو براہ کرم 1-855-355-5777 پر کال کریں۔ ہم آپ کو آپ کی مادری زبان میں ایک مفت مترجم فراہم کر سکتے ہیں۔

## **Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)**

Đây là tài liệu quan trọng. Nếu quý vị cần trợ giúp để hiểu tài liệu này, vui lòng gọi 1-855-355-5777. Chúng tôi có thể cung cấp thông dịch viên miễn phí nói ngôn ngữ của quý vị.

## **אידיש (Yiddish)**

דאס איז א וויכטיגער דאקומענט. אויב איר דארפט הילף עס צו פארשטיין, ביטע רופט 1-855-355-5777. מיר קענען אייך געבן א דאלמעטשער פריי פון אפצאל אין די שפראך וואס איר רעדט.

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