



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

Notice of Decision

Decision Date: June 12, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000015879

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

On May 17, 2017, you appeared by telephone at a hearing on your appeal of NY State of Health's January 31, 2017 eligibility determination.

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 NY State of Health 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.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Decision

Decision Date: June 12, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000015879

[REDACTED]

Issue

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

Did NY State of Health (NYSOH) properly determine that you were not eligible for advance payments of the premium tax credit or cost-sharing reductions, effective March 1, 2017?

Procedural History

On December 22, 2016, NYSOH received your application for health insurance. On that application, you listed your marital status as “separated” and your tax filing status as “head of household with qualifying individual.”

On December 23, 2016, NYSOH issued a notice of eligibility determination stating that you were eligible to purchase a qualified health plan (QHP) at full cost, effective February 1, 2017. The notice further stated that you were not eligible for a tax credit and cost-sharing reductions because NYSOH was missing information about your taxes.

On January 4, 2017, you updated your application for health insurance. On that application, you listed your marital status as “[REDACTED]” and your tax filing status as “[REDACTED]”

On January 5, 2017, NYSOH issued a notice of eligibility determination stating that you were eligible to purchase a QHP at full cost, effective February 1, 2017. The notice further stated that you were not eligible for a tax credit and cost-sharing reductions because NYSOH was missing information about your taxes.

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Also on January 5, 2017, NYSOH issued a notice of enrollment confirmation confirming your enrollment in a bronze-level QHP, effective February 1, 2017.

On January 30, 2017, you updated your NYSOH application three times. On the third and final application, you listed your marital status as “separated” and your tax filing status as “married, filing single.”

On January 31, 2017, NYSOH issued a notice of eligibility determination stating that you were eligible to purchase a QHP at full cost, effective March 1, 2017. The notice further stated that you were not eligible for a tax credit or cost-sharing reductions because NYSOH was missing information about your taxes.

On February 15, 2017, you contacted NYSOH’s Account Review Unit and requested an appeal of the January 31, 2017 eligibility determination, insofar as you were not eligible for financial assistance with the cost of your health insurance.

On May 17, 2017, you had a telephone hearing with a Hearing Officer from NYSOH’s Appeals Unit. The record was developed during the hearing and kept open at the end of the hearing through June 16, 2017 so that you could submit your IRS federal tax return transcripts for the years 2015 and 2016.

On June 6, 2017, you faxed a 12-page document to NYSOH. The record is now closed.

Findings of Fact

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

- 1) You testified that you do not know what tax filing status was listed on your 2015 or 2016 tax returns, because someone else prepares your taxes.
- 2) You testified that your [REDACTED] began living with you in January 2017, but that she generally files her own tax return.
- 3) You testified that you are currently separated from your spouse, but that you do not have a decree of separation.
- 4) You testified that your spouse lives in another country and that he does not supply you with any financial support.
- 5) You testified that when you spoke with someone from NYSOH about the fact that you were not found eligible to receive financial assistance, you were advised to change your filing status to “single.”

- 6) Your application states that you live in Monroe County.
- 7) On June 6, 2017, you faxed a 12-page document to NYSOH consisting of the following documentation:
 - a. A one-page fax cover sheet;
 - b. A two-page copy of a blank IRS Form 4506-T Request for Transcript of Tax Return;
 - c. An unsigned copy of your 2016 IRS Form 1040, including an itemized deduction worksheet, showing a tax filing status of "Single" and adjusted gross income of \$43,940.00;
 - d. An unsigned copy of your 2015 IRS Form 1040, including worksheets for retirement contributions, showing a tax filing status of "Single" and an adjusted gross income of "30,392.00.

Taken together, these documents are collectively marked and entered into the record as "Appellant's Exhibit One."

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

Applicable Law and Regulations

Advance Payments of the Premium Tax Credit

Advance payments of the premium tax credit (APTC) are available to a person who is eligible to enroll in a QHP and (1) expects to have a household income between 138% and 400% of the applicable federal poverty level (FPL), (2) expects to file a tax return and claim a personal exemption deduction for a person who meets the eligibility requirements to enroll in a QHP, and (3) is not otherwise eligible for minimum essential coverage except through the individual market (see 45 CFR § 155.305(f), 42 CFR § 435.119(b), 42 CFR § 435.911(b)(1), 42 CFR § 435.603(d)(4)).

Additionally, a tax filer who is married must file a joint return with his or her spouse to qualify for APTC (45 CFR §§ 155.305(f), 155.310(d); 26 CFR § 1.36B-2).

However, an individual will be treated as not married at the close of the taxable year if the individual

- 1) Is legally separated from his/her spouse under a decree of divorce or of separate maintenance, or
- 2) Meets all the following criteria:

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- a. files a separate return from his/her spouse and maintains his/her household as the primary home for a qualifying child;
- b. pays more than one half of the cost of keeping up his/her home for the tax year; and
- c. does not have his/her spouse as a member of the household during the last 6 months of the tax year

(26 USC § 7703).

Cost-Sharing Reductions

Cost-sharing reductions (CSR) are available to a person who (1) is eligible to enroll in a QHP through NYSOH, (2) meets the requirements to receive APTC, (3) is expected to have an annual household income that does not exceed 250% of the FPL for the first day of the open enrollment period of the benefit year for which coverage is requested, and (4) is enrolled in a silver-level QHP (45 CFR § 155.300(a), 45 CFR § 155.305(g)(1)).

Legal Analysis

The issue is whether NYSOH properly determined that you were not eligible for APTC and cost-sharing reductions.

In the eligibility determination notice issued on January 31, 2017, NYSOH denied APTC to you because NYSOH was missing information about your taxes.

To qualify for APTC, a person who is married must either file taxes jointly with his or her spouse or qualify as “not married” at the close of the tax year. The notice stated that this could be for one of three reasons, including that you were married and you told NYSOH that you would be filing taxes separately from your spouse.

According to the information in the record and your testimony at the hearing, you are still married to your spouse and have not obtained a decree of divorce or of separate maintenance. Also, you confirmed that you do not file federal income tax returns with your spouse.

There is an exception, as noted above, that allows a tax filer to be treated as “not married” at the close of a taxable year, making the tax filer eligible for APTC. However, the record does not support a finding that you meet the necessary requirements for that exception.

Therefore, NYSOH was correct when it found that you were not eligible for APTC, because you are still married to your spouse but do not file your tax returns jointly, and do not qualify to be treated as “not married.”

Cost-sharing reductions are available only to those who meet the requirements for APTC. Since you did not qualify for APTC, NYSOH correctly found that you were not eligible for cost-sharing reductions.

Since NYSOH correctly determined that you are not eligible for APTC or cost-sharing reductions, the January 31, 2017 notice of eligibility determination is AFFIRMED.

Decision

The January 31, 2017 eligibility determination notice is AFFIRMED.

Effective Date of this Decision: June 12, 2017

How this Decision Affects Your Eligibility

You remain eligible to purchase a QHP at full cost through NYSOH.

You remain ineligible for an APTC because you are married but do not file, and do not plan to file, joint federal income tax returns with your spouse.

You remain ineligible for cost-sharing reductions because you are not eligible for APTC.

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

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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 Have Questions about this Decision (Customer Service Resources):

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- 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 January 31, 2017 eligibility determination notice is **AFFIRMED**.

You remain eligible to purchase a QHP at full cost through NYSOH.

You remain ineligible for an APTC because you are married but do not file, and do not plan to file, joint federal income tax returns with your spouse.

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You remain ineligible for cost-sharing reductions because you are not eligible for APTC.

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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