



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

Notice of Decision

Decision Date: April 10, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000017446

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

On April 10, 2017, you appeared by telephone at a hearing on your appeal of NY State of Health's March 16, 2017 eligibility determination notice, the March 29, 2017 eligibility determination notice and the March 29, 2017 enrollment notice.

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.

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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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Decision

Decision Date: April 10, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000017446

[REDACTED]

Issues

The issues presented for review by the Appeals Unit of NY State of Health are:

Did NY State of Health (NYSOH) properly determine that your spouse's eligibility for the Essential Plan ended effective March 31, 2017?

Did NYSOH properly determine that your spouse's eligibility for and enrollment in the Essential Plan was effective May 1, 2017?

Procedural History

On December 9, 2016, NYSOH issued a notice of eligibility determination stating that your spouse was eligible to enroll in the Essential Plan for a limited time, effective January 1, 2017. The notice further directed you to provide documentation confirming your spouse's citizenship status before March 8, 2017.

On December 14, 2016, NYSOH issued a notice confirming your spouse's enrollment in an Essential Plan, effective January 1, 2017. This notice also you to provide documentation confirming your spouse's citizenship status before March 8, 2017.

On March 16, 2017, NYSOH issued an eligibility determination notice stating that your spouse was not qualified to enroll in health insurance coverage through NYSOH because NYSOH did not receive the citizenship documentation needed to verify your spouse's eligibility. This eligibility ended as of March 31, 2017.

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Also on March 16, 2017, NYSOH issued a disenrollment notice stating that your spouse's enrollment in the Essential Plan would end as of March 31, 2017, because she was no longer eligible to remain enrolled in health insurance through NYSOH.

On March 21, 2017, NYSOH received a Certificate of Naturalization issued to your spouse on [REDACTED].

On March 28, 2017, you updated your application for financial assistance. That day, a preliminary eligibility determination was prepared stating that your spouse was eligible to enroll in the Essential Plan, effective May 1, 2017, and you selected a plan for her enrollment.

Also on March 28, 2017, you spoke to NYSOH's Account Review Unit and appealed the termination of your spouse's Essential Plan for the month of April 2017.

On March 29, 2017, NYSOH issued a notice of eligibility determination, based on your March 28, 2017 application, stating that your spouse was eligible to enroll in the Essential Plan, effective May 1, 2017.

Also on March 29, 2017, NYSOH issued an enrollment notice, based on your plan selection on March 28, 2017, stating that your spouse was enrolled in an Essential Plan, effective May 1, 2017.

On April 5, 2017, NYSOH received a request to review your appeal on an expedited basis. That same day, your request for an expedited appeal and hearing was reviewed and approved.

On April 10, 2017, you had a telephone hearing with a Hearing Officer from NYSOH's Appeals Unit. You provided sworn testimony to waive the formal notice requirement to hold your hearing on an expedited basis. 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, and your application indicates, that you receive all of your notices from NYSOH via regular mail.
- 2) You testified that you did not receive any notices stating that your eligibility was only conditional and that you needed to provide documentation of your citizenship status.

- 3) No notices that were sent to the address listed on your NYSOH account have been returned as undeliverable.
- 4) You testified that you did not know that you needed to submit documentation of your spouse's citizenship status until you had received the March 16, 2017 notice stating that your spouse had been disenrolled from her Essential Plan effective March 31, 2017.
- 5) Your NYSOH account indicates that on March 15, 2017, your application was run and your spouse was found no longer eligible for the Essential Plan as of March 31, 2017
- 6) You submitted your spouse's Certificate of Naturalization to NYSOH on March 21, 2017.
- 7) Your spouse's eligibility was rerun on March 28, 2017 based, in part, on you providing your spouse's citizenship status documentation.
- 8) Your spouse was found eligible for and reenrolled in an Essential Plan on March 28, 2017.
- 9) You testified that you are seeking enrollment for your spouse in the Essential Plan during the month of April 2017.

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

Applicable Law and Regulations

Verification of Eligibility for the Essential Plan

NYSOH must generally determine an applicant eligible for the Essential Plan, a basic health plan, if the person is (1) a resident of New York State, (2) expects to have a household income between 138% and 200% of the applicable federal poverty level (FPL) or, in the case of an individual who is a lawfully present non-citizen who is ineligible for Medicaid or Child Health Plus as a result of their immigration status, has a household income that is between 0% and 200% of the FPL, (3) is not otherwise eligible for minimum essential coverage except through the individual market, (4) is 64 years old or younger, (5) is a citizen or a lawfully present non-citizen, and (6) is not incarcerated (see 42 CFR § 600.305, 42 CFR § 435.603(d)(4), 45 CFR § 155.305(e), NY Social Services Law § 369-gg(3), 42 USC § 18051).

NYSOH must verify the eligibility of an applicant for the Essential Plan consistent with the standards set in 45 CFR § 155.315 and § 155.320 (New York's Basic

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Health Plan Blueprint, pgs. 16-17, as approved January 2016; see <https://www.medicaid.gov/basic-health-program/basic-health-program.html>; 42 CFR § 600.345(a)(2)).

If an applicant attests to citizenship, status as a national, or lawful presence, and NYSOH is unable to verify such attestation, NYSOH must provide the applicant with notice of the inconsistency. NYSOH must then provide the applicant with 90 days to provide satisfactory documentary evidence, from the date the notice of inconsistency is received by the applicant. Notice is considered received 5 days after the date on the notice, unless the applicant demonstrates that he or she did not receive the notice within the 5-day period (42 CFR § 600.345, 45 CFR § 155.315(c)(3), (f)(2)(i)).

Upon making an eligibility redetermination, NYSOH must notify the applicant and implement any updates in eligibility to the Essential Plan effective the first day of the following month for changes received by NYSOH from the first to the fifteenth of any month (45 CFR § 155.420(b)(1)(i); see also 42 CFR § 600.320(c)). For updates received by NYSOH from the sixteenth to the last day of any month, NYSOH must ensure coverage is effective the first day of the second following month (45 CFR § 155.420(b)(1)(ii); see also 42 CFR § 600.320(c)).

Legal Analysis

The first issue under review is whether NYSOH properly determined that your spouse's eligibility for the Essential Plan ended effective March 31, 2017.

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

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

In the eligibility determination issued on December 9, 2016, you were advised that your spouse was eligible for the Essential Plan for a limited time, and that you needed to confirm her citizenship status by providing documentation before March 8, 2017.

You testified that you did not receive any notice from NYSOH telling you that you needed to provide citizenship documentation to confirm your spouse's eligibility. You testified, and your NYSOH account confirms, that you elected to receive notifications by regular mail. However, there is no evidence in the record that any of the notices that were sent to your mailing address were returned as undeliverable.

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Therefore, NYSOH properly notified you of an inconsistency in your account and that documentation was needed to confirm your spouse's citizenship status listed in the account.

If NYSOH remains unable to verify the attestation of the applicant, NYSOH must redetermine an individual's eligibility based on the information available from the data sources.

Accordingly, your eligibility for the Essential Plan terminated as of March 31, 2017 because you did not submit citizenship documentation for your spouse.

Therefore, the March 16, 2017 eligibility determination notice is **AFFIRMED**.

The second issue is whether NYSOH properly determined that your spouse's eligibility for and enrollment in the Essential Plan was effective May 1, 2017.

You testified, and your account confirms, that you provided your spouse's Certificate of Naturalization to NYSOH on March 21, 2017. Your spouse's eligibility was redetermined, in part, upon the receipt of this document on March 28, 2017. That day, you selected an Essential Plan for your spouse's enrollment.

The date on which enrollment in an Essential Plan can take effect depends on the day a person selects the plan for enrollment.

A plan that is selected from the first day to and including the fifteenth day of a month goes into effect on the first day of the following month. A plan that is selected from the sixteenth day of the month to the end of the month goes into effect on the first day of the second following month.

Since on March 28, 2017, you selected an Essential Plan, your spouse's enrollment would properly take effect on the first day of the second month following March 2017; that is, on May 1, 2017.

Therefore, the March 29, 2017 eligibility determination notice, and the March 29, 2017 enrollment notice stating that your spouse's enrollment in the Essential Plan was effective May 1, 2017, is correct and must be **AFFIRMED**.

Decision

The March 16, 2017 notice of eligibility determination notice is **AFFIRMED**.

The March 29, 2017 notice of eligibility determination notice is **AFFIRMED**.

The March 29, 2017 enrollment notice is **AFFIRMED**.

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).

Effective Date of this Decision: April 10, 2017

How this Decision Affects Your Eligibility

NYSOH properly found your spouse not eligible to enroll in the Essential Plan, effective March 31, 2017, because you did not provide documentation of her citizenship status.

NYSOH properly found that your spouse's reenrollment in the Essential Plan was effective May 1, 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 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 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):

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 March 16, 2017 notice of eligibility determination notice is AFFIRMED.

The March 29, 2017 notice of eligibility determination notice is AFFIRMED.

The March 29, 2017 enrollment notice is AFFIRMED.

NYSOH properly found your spouse not eligible to enroll in the Essential Plan, effective March 31, 2017, because you did not provide documentation of her citizenship status.

NYSOH properly found that your spouse's reenrollment in the Essential Plan was effective May 1, 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 okyerε 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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