#### STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL, REGULATIONS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS 55 FARMINGTON AVE. HARTFORD, CT 06105-3725

2021 Signature Confirmation

Client ID	
Case ID 1	
Request # 166057	

### **NOTICE OF DECISION**

# **PARTY**





# PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

On 2020, the Department of Social Services (the "Department") sent Angel Vazquez (the "Appellant") a Notice of Action ("NOA) denying his application for medical benefits under the Husky C – Long Term Care ("LTC") Program ("Husky C") effective 2020.

On 2020, Attorney 2020, Conservator of the Person and Estate for the Appellant requested an administrative hearing on behalf of the Appellant to contest the Department's decision to deny such benefits.

On 2020, the Office of Legal Counsel, Regulations, and Administrative Hearings ("OLCRAH") issued a notice scheduling the administrative hearing for 2020.

On 2020, in accordance with sections 17b-60, 17b-61 and 4-176e to 4-189 inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes, OLCRAH held an administrative hearing.

The following individuals called in for the hearing:

Conservator of the

Person and Estate

, Witness for the Appellant

Michael Briggs, Department Representative Lisa Nyren, Fair Hearing Officer

### **STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE**

The issue to be decided is whether the Department's decision to deny the Appellant's application for medical benefits under the Husky C program effective 2020 was correct.

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 1. The Appellant is a resident of **active second** ("nursing facility"), a long term care facility. (Hearing Record)
- 2. As of 2019, the Appellant owned the following three accounts with ("out of state bank"). The out of state bank is located in 2000 . (Hearing Record)

Account Number	Account Balance as of 9	Account balance as
(out of state account	\$10,709.86	\$00.00
Certificate of Deposit ("out of state CD")"	\$53,939.62	\$54,225.09
Certificate of Deposit ("out of state CD	\$23,809.46	\$23,890.42

3. On 2019, the out of state bank forwarded funds totaling \$10,709.86 from out of state account to the

("Unclaimed Property Division"). (Exhibit A: Back Up Documents, p45, 65, 73, 81-84, 89-91)

- 4. On 2019, 2019, Court of Probate appointed 2019, for the Conservator") as the Appellant's Conservator of the Person and Conservator of the Estate. (Exhibit A: Back Up Documents, p24)
- 5. On 2020, the Department received an application for medical benefits under the Husky C program from the Conservator on behalf of the Appellant. (Exhibit 3: LTC/Waiver Application and Exhibit 5: Case Notes)

- 6. On 2020, the Department issued a W-1348LTC Verification We Need ("W-1348LTC") form, request #1, to the Conservator. The Department requested verification of Conservatorship, Probate Court inventory of assets, divorce documents, 2018 to present and 2015, 2016, and 2017 end year bank statements for the following accounts: out of state bank account and , out of state CD court of state CD court of state bank account ("local bank") bank statements for accounts ("local bank account ") and ("local bank account ") and ("local bank account ") and ("local bank account "). The Department requested proof of closure If any of the local bank accounts or out of state bank account or out of state CD's are closed. The Department listed the due date for the information as 2020. (Exhibit 4: W-1348LTC Verification We Need, Exhibit 5: Case Notes, and Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp1-4)
- 7. On 2020 and 2020 and 2020, the Conservator on behalf of the Appellant submitted the following items of verification to the Department: local bank account 2019 and local bank account 2019 bank statements from 2019 through 2019 through 2019, a community of PC-440 document ("PC-440"), a form used by a fiduciary for an estate to file an inventory of estate assets and requested additional time to submit outstanding verification. Form PC-440 listed the Appellant's only asset as a personal needs account held by the nursing facility valued at \$00.00. (Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 5-10)
- 8. On 2020, the Department issued a W-1348LTC form, request #2, to the Conservator. The Department requested verification of divorce documents; 2018 to present and 2015, 2016, and 2017 end year bank statements for the following accounts: out of state bank account 0, out of state CD 2019, out of state CD 2019 to present bank statements for local bank account and local bank account 2019 to present account statements for resident trust account owned by the Appellant. The Department requested proof of closure if any of the local bank accounts, out of state bank account, or out of state CD's are closed. The Department listed the due date for the information as 2020. (Exhibit 4: W-1348LTC Verification We Need, Exhibit 5: Case Notes, and Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 11-14)
- 9. On 2020, the Department received additional bank statements for local bank account 2020, local bank account and resident trust account statement. (Exhibit 5: Case Notes)
- 10. On 2020, the out of state bank received a request for bank statements for out of state bank accounted, out of state CD and out of state CD from the Conservator on behalf of the Appellant via fax dated 2020. The Conservator requested statements for

2015, 2016, 2016, 2017 and all statements beginning 2018 to present. The Conservator attached a copy of her Conservatorship Certificate. (Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 23-24)

- 11. On 2020, the Department issued a W-1348LTC form, request #3, to the Conservator. The Department requested verification of divorce documents; 2018 to present and 2015, 2016, and 2017 end year bank statements for the following accounts: out of state bank account out of state CD , and out of state CD The Department requested proof of closure if the out of state bank account or out of state CD's were closed. The Department listed the due date for the information as 2020. (Exhibit 4: W-1348LTC Verification We Need, Exhibit 5: Case Notes, and Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 15-18)
- 12. On 2020, the out of state bank replied to the Conservator's 2020 request for bank statements. The out of state bank informed the Conservator her request for bank statements cannot be processed because "the customer does not have a relationship with [the out of state bank]." (Exhibit A: Back Up Documents p 22)
- 13. On 2020, the Conservator on behalf of the Appellant submitted a copy of the out of state correspondance and divorce records to the Department and requested an extension of time to submit outstanding documents. Refer to Finding of Facts ("FOF") # 10 and FOF # 12. (Exhibit 5: Case Notes and Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 19-26)
- 14. On 2020, the Conservator on behalf of the Appellant contacted the out of state bank via email and submitted proof the Appellant is the owner of the out of state bank account , out of state CD , and out of state CD and submitted a second request for bank statements. (Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 30-37)
- 15. On 2020, the Department issued a W-1348LTC form, request #4, to the Conservator. The Department requested verification of out of state bank account, out of state CD and and out of state CD . The Department requested proof of closure if any of the out of state bank account or out of state CD's were closed. The Department listed the due date for the information as 2020. (Exhibit 4: W-1348LTC Verification We Need, Exhibit 5: Case Notes, and Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 27-29)
- 16.On 2020, the out of state bank Legal Processing, Legal Requests Management Unit instructed the Conservator email requests for

bank documents will not be accepted by the out of state bank. All requests must be submitted via mail. (Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 30-34)

- 17. On 2020, the Conservator on behalf of the Appellant mailed a request for 2015, 2016, 2016, 2017, and 2017, and 2018 to present bank statements for out of state bank account , out of state CD , and out of state CD to the out of state bank. The Conservator attached a copy of the Certificate of Conservatorship. (Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 35-37)
- 18. On 2020, the Conservator on behalf of the Appellant submitted copies of correspondance between the Conservator and the out of state bank to the Department and requested additional time to submit the outstanding bank documents from the department. Reference FOF # 14, FOF #16 & FOF #17. (Exhibit 5: Case Notes and Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 30-37)
- 19. On 2020, the out of state bank Legal Processing, Legal Requests Management Unit instructed the Conservator to obtain a court order addressed to the out of state bank to liquidate out of state CD and out of state CD (Exhibit A: Back Up Documents p54)
- 20. On 2020, the Department received out of state bank account bank statements for the period 2015 through 2015 through , 2019 from the out of state bank. (Exhibit 5: Case Notes)
- 21. On 2020, the Court of Probate 2020 issued an exparte motion ("probate court order") for the out of state bank giving the Conservator permission to liquidate out of state CD 2020 and out of state CD 2020 (Exhibit A: Back Up Documents p51)

22. On 2020, the Department issued a W-1348LTC form, request # 5, to the Conservator. The Department requested 2018 to present and 2015, 2016, 2017 end year bank statements for the following accounts: out of state CD mout of state CD , and explanation for on \$10,709.66 withdrawal from out of state bank account 2019. The Department attached a copy of Form W-36 Certificate and Authorization for Disclosure of Property of Applicants or Recipients of State Aid ("W-36") form completed by the out of state bank on , 2019 listing the current balances of out of state account as \$10,709.86, out of state CD as \$53,939.62, and out of state CD as \$23,809.46. The Department listed the due date for the information as 2020. Refer to FOF #2. (Exhibit 4: W-1348LTC Verification We Need, Exhibit 5: Case Notes and Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 38-41, 46)

- 23. On 2020, the Conservator on behalf of the Appellant submitted proof of out of state CD 2017, 2017, 2017, 2018, 2018, 2018, 2018, 2018, 2019, 2019, and 2020 to the Department from the out of state bank. Also submitted to the Department was an explanation for 2019 \$10,709.66 withdrawal confirming the out of state bank closed out of state account 2019 but listing the funds were sent to the U.S. Department of Treasury ("Treasury") in error since funds were not sent to the Treasury but sent to the Unclaimed Property Division. Refer to FOF #3. (Exhibit 5: Case Notes and Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 42-46)
- 24. On 2020, the Conservator on behalf of the Appellant mailed a request to the out of state bank to close out of state CD and out of state CD . The Conservator included a copy of the probate court order with the request. Refer to FOF #21. (Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 50-51)
- 25. On 2020, the Conservator emailed a copy of the request to close out of state CD 2020 out of state CD 2020 a copy of the probate court order to the out of state bank after learning the out of state bank did not receive the 2020 mailed request. Refer to FOF #21 and FOF #24. (Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 50-54)
- 26. On 2020, the Conservator on behalf of the Appellant notified the Department of delays incurred trying to liquidate out of state CD and out of state CD which included obtaining a court order and delays due to the pandemic. (Exhibit 5: Case Notes and Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 47-54)
- 27. On 2020, the Department issued a W-1348LTC form, request # 6, to the Conservator. The Department requested verification of the liquidation of out of state CD and out of state CD , reason for \$10,709.66 payment to the Treasury, and 2019 tax return. The Department listed the due date for the information as 2020, (Exhibit 4: W-1348LTC Verification We Need, Exhibit 5: Case Notes, and Exhibit A: pp 55-57)
- 28. On 2020, the Conservator on behalf of the Appellant notified the Department the \$10,709.66 funds were sent to the Unclaimed Property Division not the Treasury in which there is a delay in processing by the Unclaimed Property Division due to the pandemic. (Exhibit 5: Case Notes and Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 58-59)
- 29. On 2020, the out of state bank Legal Processing Department denied the Conservator's request to liquidate out of state CD and out of

state CD because the probate court order is from another jurisdiction rather than the jurisdiction it is intended to be executed, specifically the court order must be issued by the local court where the out of state bank is located. (Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 66-67, 73-74, 81-84)

- 30. On 2020, the Department issued a W-1348LTC form, request #7, to the Conservator. The Department requested verification of the liquidation of out of state CD and out of state CD and the status of \$10,709.66 funds issued to the Treasury. The Department listed the due date as 2020. (Exhibit 4: W-1348LTC Verification We Need, Exhibit 5: Case Notes, and Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 60-63)
- 31. On 2020, the Conservator on behalf of the Appellant contacted the out of state bank requesting a status update on the \$10,709.66 funds sent to the Unclaimed Property Division. (Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 73-74)
- 32. On 2020, the Conservator on behalf of the Appellant submitted to the Department proof the out of state bank requests a local court order to release funds from out of state CD and out of state CD 2 and proof the Appellant did not file a tax return in 2019. Refer to FOF #29. (Exhibit 5: Case Notes and Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 64-67)
- 33. On 2020, the Department issued a W-1348LTC form, request #8, to the Conservator. The Department requested verification of the liquidation of out of state CD 2020 and out of state CD 2020 and status of \$10,709.66 funds issued to the Treasury. The Department listed the due date as 2020. (Exhibit 4: W-1348LTC Verification We Need, Exhibit 5: Case Notes, and Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 68-71)
- 34. On **Example**, 2020, the out of state bank contacted the Conservator to inform her that the \$10,709.66 funds were sent to the Unclaimed Property Division rather than the Treasury. (Exhibit A: Back up Documents p 72-73)
- 35. On 2020, the Conservator on behalf of the Appellant submitted proof of correspondance between the Conservator and out of state bank confirming whereabouts of \$10,709.66 and legal delay in the liquidation of out of state CD and out of state CD . (Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 72-74)

- 37. On 2020, the Conservator on behalf of the Appellant submitted a Claim Form to the Unclaimed Property Division ("Claim Form") requesting the release of the out of state bank funds. (Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 79-84)
- 38. On 2020, the Department issued a W-1348LTC form, request # 9, to the Conservator. The Department requested verification of the liquidation of out of state CD and out of state CD and status of \$10,709.66 funds issued to the Treasury and status of claim to recover funds. The Department listed the due date as 2020. (Exhibit 4: W-1348LTC Verification We Need, Exhibit 5: Case Notes, and Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 75-78)
- 39. On 2020, the Conservator on behalf of the Appellant submitted a copy of the Claim Form to the Department and requested additional time to submit outstanding documentation which the Department granted. The new due date for information is 2020. Refer to FOF #37. (Exhibit 5: Case Notes and Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 79-84)
- 40. On 2020, the Department issued a W-1348LTC form, request # 10, to the Conservator. The Department requested verification of the liquidation of out of state CD and out of state CD and status of \$10,709.66 funds issued to the Treasury. The Department listed the due date as 2000, 2020. (Exhibit 4: W-1348LTC Verification We Need, Exhibit 5: Case Notes, and Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 85-88)
- 41. On 2020, the Conservator on behalf of the Appellant submitted status update on of unclaimed property received by the Unclaimed Property Division noting processing the claim form can take 90 days or longer and current local bank account statements to the Department. (Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 89-94)
- 42. On 2020, the Department issued a W-1348LTC form, request # 11, to the Conservator. The Department requested verification of the liquidation of out of state CD and out of state CD and proof Appellant reclaimed funds of \$10,709.66. The Department listed the due date as 2020. (Exhibit 4: W-1348LTC Verification We Need, Exhibit 5: Case Notes, and Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 95-98)
- 43. On 2020, the Conservator retained out of state counsel to pursue liquidation of out of state CD and out of state CD and paid the out of state counsel's retainer fee of \$1,378.00. (Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 99-106)

- 44. On **Exhibit B:** Probate Decree), 2020, the Appellant died. (Exhibit 6: Emails and Exhibit B: Probate Decree)
- 45. On 2020, the Department determined the Appellant not eligible for Husky C effective 2020 for the reason the value of the Appellant's total assets of \$79,645.28 exceed the Husky C asset limit of \$1,600.00. The Department determined local bank account current out of state CD , out of state CD and resident trust account as available assets and applied their equity to the Medicaid asset limit of \$1,600.00. (Exhibit 7: Asset Summary, Exhibit 9: Notice of Action, and Department Representative's Testimony)

Bank Account	Value of Account
Local bank account	\$1,469.77
Out of state CD	\$54,225.09
Out of state CD	\$23,890.42
Resident Trust Account	\$60.00
Total Assets	\$79,645.28

- 46. On 2020, the Department issued a notice of denial to the Appellant. The notice stated the reasons for denial as: "the value of your assets is more than the amount we allow you to have [and] does not meet program requirements." (Exhibit 9: Notice of Action)
- 47. On 2020, the Conservator submitted proof of out of state counsel retained to pursue liquidation of out of state CD and out of state CD . (Exhibit A: Back Up Documents pp 99-106)
- 48.On 2020, the Middletown Probate Court appointed the Conservator as the Administratrix of the Appellant's Estate. (Exhibit B: Court of Probate Decree)
- 49. The Conservator seeks Medicaid eligibility for the Appellant under the Husky C Long Term Care Program. In order to do so, the Conservator contends the following accounts: out of state account , out of state CD , and out of state CD , are inaccessible assets throughout the application process and therefore should not be applied to the Medicaid asset limit of \$1,600.00. (Hearing Record)
- 50. The issuance of this decision is timely under Executive Order 7M issued on 2020 which extends the time frame required to issue a decision under Connecticut General Statutes § 17b-61(a) from 90 days to 120 days of the request for an administrative hearing. The Conservator on behalf of the Appellant requested an administrative hearing on 2020. Therefore, this decision is due not later than 2020.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- Section 17b-2(6) of the Connecticut General Statutes ("Conn. Gen. Stat."); provides that "the Department of Social Services is designated as the state agency for the administration of the Medicaid program pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act."
- 2. "The Department of Social Services shall be the sole agency to determine eligibility for assistance and services under programs operated and administered by said government." Conn. Gen. Stat. § 17b-261b(a)
- 3. State statute provides as follows:

For the purposes of determining eligibility for the Medicaid program, an available asset is one that is actually available to the applicant or one that the applicant has the legal right, authority or power to obtain or to have applied for the applicant's general or medical support. If the terms of a trust provide for the support of an applicant, the refusal of a trustee to make a distribution from the trust does not render the trust an unavailable asset. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, the availability of funds in a trust or similar instrument funded in whole or in part by the applicant or the applicant's spouse shall be determined pursuant to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, 42 USC 1396p. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a special needs trust, as defined in 42 USC 1396p(d)(4)(A), as amended from time to time. For purposes of determining whether a beneficiary under a special needs trust, who has not received a disability determination from the Social Security Administration, is disabled, as defined in 42 USC 1382c(a)(3), the Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee, shall independently make such determination. The commissioner shall not require such beneficiary to apply for Social Security disability benefits or obtain a disability determination from the Social Security Administration for purposes of determining whether the beneficiary is disabled.

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 17b-261(c)

- 4. "The department's uniform policy manual is the equivalent of a state regulation and, as such, carries the force of law." *Bucchere v. Rowe,* 43 Conn. Supp. 175, 178 (1994) (citing Conn. Gen. Stat, § 17b-10; *Richard v. Commissioner of Income Maintenance,* 214 Conn. 601, 573 A.2d 712(1990))
- 5. Section 4005 of the Uniform Policy Manual ("UPM") provides as follows:

For every program administered by the Department, there is a definite asset limit. This chapter outlines which assets are counted toward the asset limit and which assets are not counted. The chapter also specifies the asset limits for the four major programs which the Department administers, and describes how assets exceeding the program limit affect eligibility.

"For every program administered by the Department, there is a definite asset limit." UPM § 4005.05(A)

 "The Department counts the assistance unit's equity in an asset toward the asset limit if the asset is not excluded by state or federal law and is either: (a) available to the unit; or (b) deemed available to the unit." UPM § 4005.05(B)(1)

"The Department does not count the assistance unit's equity in an asset toward the asset limit if the asset is either: (1) excluded by state of federal law; or (2) not available to the unit." UPM 4005.05(C)

 "Under all programs except Food Stamps, the Department considers an asset available when actually available to the individual or when the individual has the legal right, authority or power to obtain the asset, or to have it applied for, his or her general medical support." UPM § 4005.05(B)(2)

"An available asset is cash or any item of value which is actually available to the individual or which the individual has the legal right, authority or power to obtain, or to have applied for, his or her general or medical support." UPM § 4000.01

8. "Some assets are not counted because they are considered inaccessible to the assistance unit. This chapter describes the Department's policies and procedures concerning inaccessible assets and their effect upon the assistance unit's eligibility." UPM § 4015

"An inaccessible asset is an asset which someone owns but, for some reason beyond his or her control, cannot readily convert to cash." UPM § 500

 "Subject to the conditions described in this section, equity in an asset which is inaccessible to the assistance unit is not counted as long as the asset remains inaccessible." UPM § 4015.05(A)(1)

"If the asset is determined to in accessible, do not count the unit's equity in the asset as long as the asset remains inaccessible." UPM P-4015.05(4)

10. "The burden is on the assistance unit to demonstrate that an asset is inaccessible." UPM § 4015.15(B)(1)

"The assistance unit must verify that an otherwise counted asset is inaccessible to the unit if the unit claims it can not convert the asset to cash." UPM § 4099.15(A)(1)

11. Department policy provides as follows:

For all programs except Food Stamps, in order for an asset to be considered inaccessible, the assistance unit must cooperate with the Department, as directed, in attempting to gain access to the asset.

- a. If the unit does not cooperate as described above, the asset is considered available to the unit, and the unit's equity in the asset is counted toward the asset limit.
- b. If the unit's equity in the asset is unknown, the non-cooperative adult member of the unit is ineligible for assistance.

UPM § 4015.05(B)(2)

12. Department policy provides as follows:

This chapter describes four specific areas of cooperation and the applicable eligibility requirements for the different programs. The requirements in regard to potential sources of income, pursuing assets do not apply to the Food Stamp program.

Subjects include:

Cooperation as related to the eligibility process;

Cooperation as applied to potential sources of income or inaccessible income;

Cooperation related to pursuing assets.

UPM § 3525

13. Department policy provides as follows:

As a condition of eligibility, members of the assistance unit are required to cooperate in the initial application process and in reviews, including those generated by reported changes, redeterminations and Quality Control. (Cross reference: Eligibility Process 1500)

Specific Requirement - Application Process

Applicants are responsible for cooperating with the Department in completing the application process by:

a. fully completing and signing the application form; and

- b. responding to a scheduled appointment for an interview; and
- c. providing and verifying information as required.

UPM § 3525.05(A)

14. Department policy provides as follows:

An assistance unit is required to cooperate in pursuing inaccessible assets, as determined by the Department. Cooperation may require one or more of the following:

- 1. pursuit of inaccessible assets such as:
  - a. property in probate,
  - b. jointly owned property,
  - c. a trust,
  - d. personal property in someone else's possession,
  - e. the assets of the community spouse, when there has been an assignment of support rights; (Cross Reference 4025.68)
- 2. compliance with the Department's require for one or more of the following:
  - a. information about the asset;
  - b. names and addresses of people involved;
  - c. a petition to the probate court;
  - d. an application for compensation equal to the value of the assistance unit's interest;
  - e. a letter of demand or inquiry to the current holder of an asset.

UPM § 3525.15(A)

- 15. "The Department compares the assistance unit's equity in counted assets with the program asset limit when determining whether the unit is eligible for benefits." UPM § 4005.05(D)(1)
- 16. The Department incorrectly determined the following accounts: out of state account , out of state CD , and out of state CD , as available and counted assets resulting in the denial of Medicaid benefits for the reason the Appellant's assets exceed the Medicaid asset limit. The Department failed to review the inaccessibility of the accounts held by the out of state bank during the application process. Although there is no dispute over the ownership of the out of state accounts, the Conservator disputes the availability of the assets and the ability to obtain access to the funds. Evidence provided to the Department during the application process and evidence provided at the administrative hearing clearly shows the Conservator did not have the ability to convert the funds held by the out of state bank into cash due to delays caused by the out of state bank, misinformation provided by the out of state bank, both local

and out of state legal delays, and delays caused by the pandemic. Throughout the application process, the Conservator cooperated with the Department seeking access to the funds held by the out of state bank that includes regular correspondance with the out of state bank, seeking and obtaining a court order through Probate Court, and finally locating and retaining out of state legal counsel. The accounts held by the out of state bank were inaccessible during the application process and should be excluded when determining the Appellant's counted assets and eligibility for the Husky C program.

17. On application, 2020, the Department incorrectly denied the Appellant's application for Husky C benefits under the LTC program effective 2020 for the reasons: "the value of your assets is more than the amount we allow you to have [and] does not meet program requirements."

# DECISION

The Appellant's appeal is granted.

# <u>ORDER</u>

- 1. The Department must reopen the Appellant's application for Husky C benefits under the LTC program effective 2020.
- The Department must not count the out of state bank account out of state CD in the asset eligibility determination as the Conservator on behalf of the Appellant has proven these accounts were inaccessible during the application process.
- 3. Compliance is due 14 days from the date of this decision.

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Lisa A. Nyren Fair Hearing Officer

CC:

Yecenia Acosta, DSS RO 30 Tim Latifi, DSS RO 30 Michael Briggs, DSS RO 30 Anna-kaye Allen, DSS RO 30

# **RIGHT TO REQUEST RECONSIDERATION**

The appellant has the right to file a written reconsideration request within **15** days of the mailing date of the decision on the grounds there was an error of fact or law, new evidence has been discovered or other good cause exists. If the request for reconsideration is granted, the appellant will be notified within **25** days of the request date. No response within 25 days means that the request for reconsideration has been denied. The right to request a reconsideration is based on § 4-181a (a) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Reconsideration requests should include <u>specific</u> grounds for the request: for example, indicate <u>what</u> error of fact or law, <u>what</u> new evidence, or <u>what</u> other good cause exists.

Reconsideration requests should be sent to: Department of Social Services, Director, Office of Administrative Hearings and Appeals, 55 Farmington Avenue Hartford, CT 06105.

### **RIGHT TO APPEAL**

The appellant has the right to appeal this decision to Superior Court within **45** days of the mailing of this decision, or **45** days after the agency denies a petition for reconsideration of this decision, provided that the petition for reconsideration was filed timely with the Department. The right to appeal is based on § 4-183 of the Connecticut General Statutes. To appeal, a petition must be filed at Superior Court. A copy of the petition must be served upon the Office of the Attorney General, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106 or the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, 55 Farmington Avenue Hartford, CT 06105. A copy of the petition must also be served on all parties to the hearing.

The 45 day appeal period may be extended in certain instances if there is good cause. The extension request must be filed with the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services in writing no later than 90 days from the mailing of the decision. Good cause circumstances are evaluated by the Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee in accordance with § 17b-61 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Agency's decision to grant an extension is final and is not subject to review or appeal.

The appeal should be filed with the clerk of the Superior Court in the Judicial District of New Britain or the Judicial District in which the appellant resides.