

Reasons for Decision:

Order # AP1516-0349

The appellant appealed that the appellant's request for duplicate/emergency assistance was denied.

The appellant was provided with full entitlement of October's income assistance in the amount of <amount removed>. On <date removed> the appellant contacted the appellant's worker requesting duplicate assistance as a portion of the appellant's basic needs was provided to <reference removed>. The Employment and Income Assistance program determined that the appellant was not eligible for duplicate assistance as the appellant had made a choice to provide the appellant's basic needs funds to <reference removed> rather than using it to meet the appellant's basic needs.

The appellant stated that the appellant provided the funds to <reference removed> to help the <reference removed> pay legal costs to prepare documents to file with the <reference removed>. The appellant stated that <reference removed> had very tight deadlines, and therefore did not have many options available to <reference removed>. The appellant states that a person does not really have the right to appeal if in defacto, they do not have the financial means to proper legal representation. The appellant indicated the appellant has receipts to show that <reference removed> spent <amount removed> on a <reference removed>, but did not provide these receipts at the hearing. The appellant indicated that the appellant was required to borrow some funds for food, and also depleted most of the staples such as sugar, salt, butter etc. The appellant indicated the appellant was willing to accept the duplicate assistance on an overpayment basis to spread the hardship over several months, and the appellant was willing to accept a food voucher even though this made it impossible to bargain prices with the grocery store. The appellant stated the appellant did not feel this request was unreasonable, the appellant used the appellant's income assistance funds to pay for a legitimate expense and the appellant is just trying to get food to eat.

After carefully considering the written and verbal information the Board has determined that the Department was correct in determining that the appellant received the appellant's full entitlement to October's income assistance and there were no extenuating circumstances that would warrant the need for duplicate assistance. The "legitimate expenses" that the appellant referred to were not due to the appellant's own circumstances, but were due to a family member's circumstances, and the appellant made a choice to give/lend the appellant's funds to this family member. Therefore the decision of the Director has been confirmed.

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