

Reasons for Decision:

Order #AP1718-0115

The appellant filed an appeal as the appellant's income assistance had been cancelled.

It is the Employment and Income Assistance Program's position that the appellant did not meet work expectations under Sections 10(1) and 10(2) of The Manitoba Assistance Regulation.

The appellant applied for income assistance as a general assistance recipient in <date removed>. The appellant's goal at that time was to finish high school and then go to <text removed> University to take <text removed> and become a <text removed>. The program completed an Employment and Training Assessment in <date removed>. This assessment is used to determine what next steps should be taken to help a person reach his/her goals. The appellant was referred to Workplace Employment Manitoba, who signed the appellant up for a <text removed> from <dates removed>. The appellant did not attend the program and did not make any contact with the program or EIA worker to explain the reason for missing the program. In <date removed> the appellant was referred to both the Regional Employment Resource Centre and the Career Development Co. The appellant was sent a letter reminding the appellant that the appellant was required to attend the Regional Employment Centre on a daily basis and that failure to attend could result in the appellant's income assistance file closing.

In <date removed> concerns were raised that the appellant was not cooperating with these programs and not following through with expectations. The appellant was advised at that time that the appellant cannot let family obligations interfere with work expectations. The program indicated that although the appellant had mentioned health concerns on a number of occasions, the appellant has never provided any type of medical note providing reasons for being unable to attend employment programming. The appellant's attendance concerns and lack of engagement continued to be problematic from <dates removed>. The appellant was sent a letter on <date removed> advising that the appellant's file had been closed for failing to meet work expectations.

At the hearing the appellant indicated that the appellant was missing appointments because the appellant's family member had become ill, and that the appellant's other family member could not drive to work, so the appellant had to drive the family member to work. The appellant said the appellant phoned and explained why the appellant was missing the program, but that the appellant didn't think they believed the appellant and thought the appellant was missing the program on purpose. The appellant said now that the family member is not sick the family member can drive the other family member to work. The appellant said that the appellant has been applying for jobs, looking at the job board and asking the program staff to fax the appellant's resume. The appellant said that the appellant found out too late that the appellant could have acquired a job at <text removed> but no one told the appellant about it. The appellant advised that the appellant

did not discuss the desire to get Grade 12 with the staff at the Resource Centre. The appellant had been looking into how to get a GED on the appellant's own. The appellant stated at the hearing that the appellant should be able to make all the appointments now.

At the hearing the program representatives stated that the appellant is welcome to reapply for assistance, but the appellant would have to be willing to commit to a realistic and solid plan.

After carefully considering the written and verbal information the Board has determined that the appellant has not complied with work expectations, and the program had properly advised the appellant that if the appellant did not comply with these expectations the appellant's income assistance benefits could be cancelled. If the appellant is unable to attend programming due to a medical condition, then the appellant would be required to provide some verification of this to the program in order to have the work expectations waived. The Employment and Income Assistance program cannot waive work expectations in order to allow a person to help out family members. Work expectations have the same type of attendance requirements that an employer would have of an employee. Therefore, the decision of the Director has been confirmed and the appeal has been dismissed.

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