

Reasons for Decision:

Order # AP1718-0207

The appellant appealed that the appellant's income assistance file had been closed effective <date removed>.

The program representative advised that the appellant re-enrolled on the program in <date removed>. The appellant was advised that the appellant must declare any funds paid to the appellant from <text removed> as the appellant was expecting a settlement. The program sent the appellant a letter <date removed> requesting information on the <text removed> funds. On <date removed> the program received confirmation that the appellant received <amount removed> on <date removed> which the appellant did not declare to the program. The appellant had previously received over <amount removed> in <date removed>. The appellant submitted a handwritten note confirming that the appellant bought <text removed>, and spent <amount removed> for <text removed> clothing and <amount removed> on bills.

The appellant was sent a letter on <date removed> requesting that the appellant provide receipts for all money spent, copies of bills, bank information and inquiring whether the funds were exhausted, as well as a written account for all funds received from the settlement. As no information was provided, the appellant's file was closed. Once the program receives an account of how, where or if the funds are exhausted, eligibility can be determined.

The appellant stated that the appellant has some receipts but doesn't have an account where all the money went. The appellant is currently homeless and cannot return to the shelter the appellant was staying at. The appellant said the appellant used some of the money towards hotel stays and food and also declared that the appellant probably spent most of the money feeding an addiction. The appellant advised that the appellant doesn't have a bank account and uses a local cheque cashing store when needed.

After carefully considering all the written and verbal information the Board has determined that the Employment and Income Assistance Program did have sufficient reasons for suspending the appellant's income assistance benefits. The appellant has not provided the requested information about the <text removed> settlement as requested. The Board finds that it was reasonable for the program to withhold the appellant's income assistance benefits after the appellant received the <text removed> settlement until the appellant produced verification of an accounting of the funds and if they are exhausted. The decision of the Director has therefore been confirmed.

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