

Reasons for Decision:

Order # AP1819-0373

<name removed> appealed that their Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) file was closed due to work expectations not met.

The Department stated that <name removed> had an appointment with their Case Counselor on <date removed> to discuss work expectations. The appellant stated that they did not have any plans to find work and had no intention to do so. Work expectations were explained and that if they are unable to work for any medical reasons, the Department would need confirmation from a doctor. <name removed> said they did not have a doctor and would not be looking for one. An action plan was created whereby <name removed> was to attend Jobs on Market by <date removed>. The Department described how <name removed> was difficult to have a conversation with and would refuse to answer questions.

<name removed> attended Jobs on Market on <date removed> and was referred to a social skills program. Work expectations were again explained and if they did not comply, their file could close.

<name removed> attended the social skills orientation session on <date removed> and started the program on <date removed>. The Department received notice from the program that they did not attend on <dates removed>. The social skills facilitators also had concerns with <name removed>'s willingness to attend. A letter was sent on <date removed> advising that their file was closed due to work expectations not met and, if they would like to reapply, to contact their Case Counsellor.

<name removed> stated that they could not attend the program due to health issues; however, they did not want to discuss it at the hearing. <name removed> advised that they now have a doctor and has an upcoming appointment.

At the hearing, the Case Counsellor advised that <name removed>'s file has been active since <date removed> to allow time to provide medical documents, however could not confirm for how long they are approved.

The Manitoba Assistance Act states:

Obligations re employment

5.4(1) *A person applying for or receiving income assistance or general assistance and a prescribed dependant of that person has an obligation to satisfy the director that he or she*

(a) has met the employment obligations set out in the regulations that he or she is required to meet; and

(b) has undertaken any employability enhancement measure as set out in the regulations that he or she is required to undertake.

Where employment obligations not met

5.4(2) *If an applicant, recipient or dependant fails to satisfy the director under subsection (1), the director may deny, reduce, suspend or discontinue the income assistance or general assistance otherwise payable, in accordance with the regulations.*

After carefully considering all the written and verbal information, the Board has determined that <name removed> did not comply with the Department's work expectations. Employment and Income Assistance has reasonable expectations relating to employment, education and training programs in order for an applicant to receive assistance. <name removed> stated they could not continue with the employment program due to health issues, but did not provide any written or verbal evidence to the Department or the Board to confirm their statements.

Therefore, the decision of the Director to cancel <name removed>'s income assistance from <dates removed> has been confirmed, and this appeal has been dismissed.

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