

**Reasons for Decision:**

**Order #AP1718-0197**

The appellant appealed that income assistance was cancelled.

The appellant enrolled on income assistance in the general assistance category on <date removed>. In <date removed> the appellant was referred to a pre employment program. The appellant was referred by this program to attend another employment preparation program from <dates removed>. The appellant had a death in the family and called the program to advise that the appellant would not be able to attend the program. The appellant's absence for this period was excused and did not affect the appellant's eligibility for income assistance benefits.

The appellant was re-referred to the program for the period <dates removed>. The appellant did not attend the program on these dates. The appellant did not contact either the program, or the income assistance worker. The worker put a hold on the appellant's income assistance benefits and sent the appellant a letter indicating the appellant would need to contact the worker if the appellant required further assistance. When the appellant spoke to the worker the appellant advised at first that the appellant did not attend due to a death in the family, however the worker reminded the appellant that the appellant was excused from the <dates removed> session, but was advised the appellant needed to attend the <dates removed> session. The appellant then advised the worker that the appellant had been sick. The worker advised the appellant that the appellant would need to provide medical documentation to confirm the appellant was too ill to attend the program.

At the hearing the program representative indicated that as the appellant has not brought a doctor's note to excuse the appellant from the program, the appellant is considered to have not met work expectations.

At the hearing the appellant stated that the appellant was very ill. The appellant advised that the appellant went to the doctor to get a prescription and had an adverse reaction to the medication and returned to the doctor. The appellant stated that the appellant tried to call the worker, but the number the appellant had wasn't the right one, so the appellant left a message with the former worker. The appellant stated that the appellant wanted to attend the program; the appellant just wasn't able to.

After carefully considering the written and verbal information the Board has determined that under Section 10(1) of The Manitoba Assistance Regulation, persons enrolled in the general assistance category must attend programming to increase their employability skills when required to do so. If the appellant was unable to attend due to a medical condition, the appellant is required to properly notify the worker and to provide verification of illness. The appellant indicated that the appellant had sought

medical attention, therefore the appellant should be able to obtain a medical note from the doctor that can be provided to the Employment and Income Assistance program to verify illness. Therefore the decision of the Director has been confirmed. At the hearing the worker indicated that the appellant could attend the Jobs on Market services in order to re-establish eligibility for income assistance benefits.

## **DISCLAIMER**

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