

**Reasons for Decision:**

**Order # AP1819-0178**

<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> is enrolled under the general assistance category with full work expectations. The appellant's file was closed for failure to attend programming as directed. <name removed> has been receiving EIA benefits since <date removed>. Prior to this, they were on and off assistance since <year removed>. An action plan was created and signed by <name removed> on <date removed> and a referral was made for them to attend the Social Skills program beginning <date removed> for five weeks. This program assist participants to secure employment, which could be extended for an additional three months.

On <date removed>, the Social Skills program advised the Department that <name removed> was being released from the program due to being very disruptive and argumentative in class. The appellant's income assistance file was closed effective <date removed> for work expectations not met.

<name removed> stated that the Social Skills program was just not for them and said their energy would be best put elsewhere. The appellant said the program did not teach concrete learning. The appellant said they have been working on their own action plan and wants to do it on their own terms, which their worker was aware of. <name removed> finds the Department is not helping them with their interest of finding a career not just a job and their worker is aware of their plans.

<name removed> advised that they have no source of income and needs help to cover their past due rent to avoid eviction. The appellant stated that job searching right now is not their primary focus, paying their rent is.

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 to receive benefits. The Board finds that <name removed> chose deliberately not to comply with the program's expectations, as they were not tailored to their specific needs and wants. The Board took issue with <name removed> turning down an employment opportunity, which could have assisted with their past rent issue. Therefore, the decision of the Director to cancel <name removed> income assistance file has been confirmed, and this appeal has been dismissed.

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