

Reasons for Decision:

Order # AP1516-0611

The appellant appealed that the appellant's request for moving costs was denied.

Moving Costs

The appellant owns a home located in <location 1 removed> and resided there up to <date removed>. After the water pipes in the appellant's home froze, the appellant moved in with the appellant's adult child in <location 2 removed>, and was only able to bring a bed and a dresser, the rest of the appellant's belongings remained in <location 1 removed>. In <date removed> the appellant moved to <location 2 removed> and the appellant's adult child moved the appellant's bed and dresser from <location 1 removed> to <location 2 removed>. The appellant requested that the Employment and Income Assistance program give the appellant moving costs to move the rest of the appellant's belongings from <location removed> to <location removed>.

The EIA program representatives indicated that when the appellant first advised them that the appellant was moving to <location removed> the appellant did not request moving costs, but made this request after the move had already been completed to get the appellant's additional belongings from <location removed>. The program denied this request as the reason for the move was one of choice and did not meet the program's criteria for moving costs. The appellant subsequently submitted a note from a <text removed> that indicated that they "would support a move to <location 3 removed>. The appellant will be close to emotional supports."

The appellant stated at the hearing that the appellant moved to <location 3 removed> as the appellant thought it would be easier to get a job there. The appellant was not getting along with the appellant's adult child and needed a less stressful environment to live. The appellant stated the stress of living with the appellant's adult child was causing the appellant's <text removed> to act up. The appellant ended up using rent money to pay to get the appellant's belongings from <location removed> to <location removed>. This resulted in problems with the appellant's landlord which caused the appellant to be evicted. The appellant is worried now that the appellant will lose all the appellant's stuff if the appellant does not get the funds to move the belongings out of <location 3 removed>. The residence in <location 1 removed> is currently up for sale, and the appellant will be selling it furnished, but the appellant still has some personal belongings there that the appellant would like to move.

Section 21.1.3 of The Employment and Income Assistance Administrative manual has established guidelines to determine when moving costs may be authorized:

An amount, up to the actual costs of moving by the most economical means, may be authorized where there is reasonable justification for the move, as approved by the Director such as the present residence uninhabitable, change

in family size, lower rent at the new location and closer proximity to confirmed employment or training.

A written estimate, invoice or receipt will be required to verify the actual cost. The Director must consult with the Program Specialist before approving costs related to relocations out of the province.

After carefully considering the written and verbal information the Board has determined that the appellant did not meet the program's eligibility criteria for moving costs. Prior to committing to the move, the appellant needed to request the moving costs, and follow the established procedure. The Board agrees with the program that the appellant did not move to <location 3 removed> due to one of the established criteria. There were no exceptional circumstances which required the appellant to move. The appellant has the right to choose where to live, however the program is not obligated to pay for the move. Moves need to be approved ahead of time. The Board agrees that moves that occur after the fact without exceptional circumstances are not eligible for reimbursement.

Therefore the Board has confirmed the decision of the Director.

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