

## DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

## FAMILY ALLOWANCES - ONTARIO REGION

122 Front Street West, Toronto 1, Ontario

## INFORMATION REGARDING FAMILY ALLOWANCES AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

ADMINISTRATION OF FAMILY ALLOWANCES ACT

"The Family Allowances Act, 1944" as amended states:

"The allowance shall cease to be payable if the child does not regularly attend school as required by the laws of the province where he resides or does not receive training which, in the opinion of the competent educational authority, is training equivalent to that which he would receive if he attended school."

"The Family Allowances Regulations" state:

"A parent shall be deemed to cease to maintain substantially a child who is not attending school or receiving equivalent training and who is gainfully employed".

After discussions with the Ontario Department of Education, it was decided that a child's occasional instances of unlawful absence should not be considered a reason for discontinuing payments of Family Allowances. However, as soon as absence has become a source of serious concern to the responsible school official, the child should forfeit entitlement to further benefits.

Further, as this Department has no jurisdiction in regard to the Schools Administration Act, we must rely on the Elementary School Inspector, or the Secondary School Principal concerned, for a correct appraisal of the child's status regarding absence from school.

CHILDREN LAWFULLY ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

In this connection, Family Allowances are continued for a child who is considered by the Educational Authorities as lawfully absent from regular day classes and who is not working for wages, as follows:

- (a) A child holding an ordinary Home Permit.
- (b) A child, under fourteen years, holding a "School Children's Employment Certificate" (valid for six weeks of any school term), but not actually working for wages.
- (c) A child absent on the basis of ill-health as shown by a Medical Certificate recognized as valid by the Educational Authorities.
- (d) A child residing at an excessive distance from school as outlined in the Schools Administration Act.
- (e) A child receiving equivalent training of a nature to merit official recognition.
- (f) A child deprived of educational opportunity due to lack of accommodation in the school he has a right to attend.
- (g) A child who has passed junior matriculation or examination for entrance to a Normal School.