

# **The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Development and Family Services and another (Respondents) v Ruth Peters (Appellant) (Trinidad & Tobago)**

**Case ID: JCPC 2021/0021**

**Jurisdiction: Court of Appeal of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**

## **Case summary**

### **Issue**

Was a policy that an applicant must be permanently disabled to access a welfare grant unlawful?

### **Facts**

The Appellant was diagnosed with Guillain-Barre syndrome and medically assessed as having a 90% disability. The medical report stated the duration of disability was “one-year pending clinical report”. The Welfare Office determined the Appellant could not receive a Disability Assistance Grant as she was not permanently disabled.

The Appellant issued a claim for judicial review challenging the policy requirement that an applicant be permanently disabled to receive a Disability Assistance Grant.

The judge at first instance found in favour of the Appellant and the Court of Appeal in favour of the Respondents. The Appellant now appeals to the Board.

## **Parties**

### **Appellant(s)**

Ruth Peters

### **Respondent(s)**

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Development and Family Services and another

## **Appeal**

### **Justices**

Lord Briggs, Lord Sales, Lord Burrows, Lord Hamblen, Lord Stephens

### **Hearing start date**

27 March 2023

### **Hearing finish date**

27 March 2023

### **Watch hearing**

27 March 2023 [Morning session](#)