

YOUR RIGHTS UNDER MEDI-CAL

If you need this notice and/or other documents from the Fresno County Mental Health Plan (FCMHP) in an alternative communication format such as large font, Braille, or an electronic format, or, if you would like help reading the material, please contact the FCMHP by calling 1-800-654-3937.

If you still do not agree with the FCMHP's decision, you can ask for a **"State Hearing"** and a judge will review your case.

You must ask for a State Hearing within **120 days** from the date of this letter. However, **if you are currently getting treatment and you want to continue your treatment while you appeal, you must ask for a State Hearing within 10 days** from the date this letter was postmarked or delivered to you OR before the date your health plan says services will be stopped or reduced. When you ask for a State Hearing, you must say that you want to keep getting your treatment. You will not have to pay for a State Hearing.

Temporary Changes to State Fair Hearing Request Timeframes

If the 120-days deadline occurs between March 1, 2020, through the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency, you are now allowed up to an additional 120 days to request a State Hearing (i.e. initial 120 day timeframe plus an additional 120 days, for a total of 240 days).

You can ask for a State Hearing by phone, electronically, or in writing:

- **By phone:** Call **1-800-952-5253**. If you cannot speak or hear well, please call **TTY/TDD 1-800-952-8349**.
- **Electronically:** You may request a State Hearing online. Please visit the California Department of Social Services' website to complete the electronic form: <https://secure.dss.cahwnet.gov/shd/pubintake/cdss-request.aspx>
- **In writing:** Fill out a State Hearing form or send a letter to:

**California Department of Social Services
State Hearings Division
P.O. Box 944243, Mail Station 9-17-37
Sacramento, CA 94244-2430**

Be sure to include your name, address, telephone number, Date of Birth, and the reason you want a State Hearing. If someone is helping you ask for a State Hearing, add their name, address, and telephone number to the form or letter. If you need an interpreter, tell us what language you speak. You will not have to pay for an interpreter. We will get you one.

After you ask for a State Hearing, it could take up to 90 days to decide your case and send you an answer. If you think waiting that long will harm your health, you might be able to get an answer within 72 hours. You may wish to ask your doctor or mental health plan to write a letter for you or you may write your own. The letter must explain in detail how waiting for up to 90 days for your case to be decided will seriously harm your life, your health, or your ability to attain, maintain, or regain maximum function. Then, make sure you ask for an “**expedited hearing,**” and provide the letter with your request for a hearing.

Authorized Representative

You may speak for yourself at the State Hearing or have another person speak for you, such as a relative, friend, advocate, doctor, or attorney. If you want another person to speak for you, then you must tell the State Hearing office that the person is allowed to speak on your behalf. This person is called an “authorized representative.”

Legal Help

You may be able to get free legal help. You may call the local Legal Aid program in your county at 888-804-3536.