

Summary of Procedures for Fair Hearings

You have the right to appeal this decision within 90 days from the date of the notice. **Your request must be made in writing. Please include the specific reason(s) for your appeal and a copy of the denial letter that accompanies this notice. If you wish, someone may assist you in filing your appeal.**

Mail your request for a hearing to the following address:

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Office of Health Services

Attention: Appeals

201 W. Preston Street, 1st Floor

Baltimore, Maryland 21201

If you are presently receiving benefits, you must request a fair hearing within 10 days from the date of this notice of agency determination or by the effective date of the termination of benefits, whichever is later, to insure continuation of your services until the fair hearing decision is made. However, if the judge agrees with us and you lose your appeal, you may have to pay back benefits received while you waited for the hearing and judge's decision. This recovery might not be required if it is determined that your request for a hearing resulted from a bona fide belief that the Department's decision was in error.

The hearing will be scheduled at a time and place that are convenient for you. You will be expected to be present. If for any reason you cannot be present, you must notify the Office of Administrative Hearings to reschedule the hearing or you must identify the person who will attend in your place. You may represent yourself, or if you wish, you may be represented by legal counsel or by a relative, friend or other person. It is not necessary, however, that someone represent you. You may bring any witnesses or documents you desire to help you establish pertinent facts and to explain your circumstances. A reasonable number of persons from the general public may be admitted to the hearing if you desire.

Prior to the hearing, you may review the documents and records that the Department will use at the time of the hearing and you can ask for the names of the witnesses the Department intends to call.

During the time before the hearing, if you have new or additional information you wish the Department to know about, you may request a reconsideration of your case by calling your resource coordinator, service coordinator, case manager or waiver eligibility case worker.

Under some circumstances, the Department may pay for transportation and other costs if they are necessary for the proper conduct of the hearing.

All these procedures and a fuller explanation of the fair hearing process can be found in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), 10.01.04, 10.09.24.12, 10.09.24.13, and 10.09.24.15 and in the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), 42 C.F.R. § 431.200.

You may obtain free legal aid and help through various resources, such as the Legal Aid Bureau at 1-800-999-8904 or the Maryland Disability Law Center at 1-800-233-7201.