

What Are Civil Rights?

Civil Rights are laws that protect individuals from being discriminated against. The Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and other federal and state regulations say that discrimination is against the law in programs receiving federal and state financial aid.

Who Do They Protect?

If you are applying for or receiving cash assistance, Medi-Cal, CalFresh, or social services in Los Angeles County, you are protected under the law against discrimination regarding these benefits and you have specific rights.

You have the right to receive the same services, consideration, and equal treatment given to all other applicants or participants regardless of:

Race, Color, Ancestry, National Origin (including language), Ethnic Group Identification, Age, Physical or Mental Disability, Medical Condition, Religion, Sex, Gender, Gender Identity or Expression, Sexual Orientation, Marital Status, Domestic Partnership, Political Affiliation, Citizenship, Immigration Status, and Genetic Information.

You have the right to:

- Receive free interpretive services in any language when applying for benefits or to continue receiving benefits.

- Call the DPSS Customer Service Center at 866-613-3777 and have County notices in English, verbally read, translated, and explained to you in any language; and
- Receive a reasonable accommodation if you have a physical or mental disability to help you access and participate in DPSS programs and services.

How To File A Complaint

If you believe you have been discriminated against because of race, color, ancestry, national origin (including language), ethnic group identification, age, physical or mental disability, medical condition, religion, sex, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, domestic partnership, political affiliation, citizenship, immigration status, and/or genetic information, or you have experienced retaliation by DPSS staff or contractor, then you may take one or all of the following actions:

You may ask to speak with the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) Civil Rights Liaison. They can help you file a civil rights complaint by providing a PA 607, "Complaint of Discriminatory Treatment," and helping you complete the form.

You may also contact Los Angeles County DPSS, State and Federal agencies directly, using the contact information listed on the back side of this Notice.

You may request an investigation from the DPSS Civil Rights Section either verbally or in writing by contacting the Civil Rights Coordinator. You may write your own statement or use a PA 607 form to document your complaint. The PA 607 form is available to any person or organizational representative in the

community requesting it. It is also available online at dpss.lacounty.gov.

The Civil Rights Section will contact you for more information, if needed, and inform you of the investigation findings in writing. If you disagree with the County's findings, you may appeal to the California Department of Social Services, or if it involves the CalFresh Program, you may appeal to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Your complaint must be filed within 180 days from the date that you believe you were discriminated against.

If the discrimination complaint impacted your benefits and services, you may request a state hearing. A discrimination investigation cannot change your benefits or services. Only a state hearing can do that. DPSS cannot retaliate against you if you request a hearing or file a discrimination complaint.

You may file your complaint with one or all of the following applicable County, State and Federal agencies:

Los Angeles County Office

For all programs administered by Los Angeles County:

Department of Public Social Services

Civil Rights Coordinator

12860 Crossroads Parkway South

City of Industry, CA 91746

(562) 908-8501

DPSSCivilRights@dpss.lacounty.gov

Covered California

Civil Rights Coordinator Covered CA

P.O. Box 989725

West Sacramento, CA 95789

(916) 228-8764

CivilRights@covered.ca.gov

Medi-Cal & Medi-Cal Dental Program

Department of Health Care Services, Office of Civil Rights

P.O. Box 997413, MS0009

Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

(916) 440-7370 or 711 (CA Relay Service)

CivilRights@dhcs.ca.gov

Other State Programs California

CA Department of Social Services

Civil Rights Unit

P.O. Box 944243, MS 9-7-41

Sacramento, CA 94244-2430

(866) 741-6241 (toll free)

crb@dss.ca.gov

To File a Complaint with a Federal Agency

Only for discrimination based on Race, Color, National Origin, Disability, Age, or Sex:

Centralized Case Management Operations

United States Department of Health and Human Services

200 Independence Avenue, SW

Room 509F, HHH Building

Washington, DC 20201

File a complaint online at:

US Health & Human Services Civil Rights Complaint Portal

(800) 368-1019 (toll free)

(800) 537-7697 (hearing/speech impaired)

CalFresh Program

U. S. Department of Agriculture Director Office of Adjudication

1400 Independence Ave, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

(866) 632-9992 (toll free)

(202) 260-1026

(800) 877-8339 (hearing-impaired)

program.intake@usda.gov

Requesting a State Hearing

If you disagree with any action or inaction taken by DPSS regarding your benefits or services, you may request a state hearing.

If your concern is related to General Relief assistance, you must contact Los Angeles County DPSS to request a hearing.

You must file a state hearing within 90-days of the County's action. The 90-day period applies even though you have filed a Civil Rights complaint.

Aid Paid Pending may be received if you file your request for a hearing before the effective date of the scheduled action.

You may request a state hearing by:

- Telephone: (800) 952-5253 (toll free)

- Mail: Fill out the back of any Notice of Action (letter) from DPSS or write a letter (keep a copy), and send your request to:

Appeals and State Hearings

P.O. Box 18890

Los Angeles, CA 90018

Online at: www.cdss.ca.gov

Reasonable Accommodations: Special Help for People with Disabilities

Persons with physical or mental disabilities have the right to request reasonable accommodations from DPSS to help them access and participate in programs and services. DPSS must work with you to determine what help you need. If DPSS denies your request, we must give you a written notice stating the reason for the denial. The notice must list your appeal rights.

Additional Civil Rights and State Hearing information is available in the reception areas of District/Regional offices. You may ask for the State brochure, ***Your Rights Under California Public Benefits Programs*** (PUB 13), which is available in all reception areas.