

Were Your Child's Services Cut?

Were your child's early intervention services cut or changed in the last few months?

Any changes (program, transportation, therapies, etc.) to your child's Individual Family Service Plan must be discussed with you at an IFSP meeting in your native language. A phone call informing you of cuts or other changes is not acceptable.

If you disagree with the changes, the Regional Center must give you written notice 30 days before the changes begin. The notice must be in a language you understand and must explain the changes and inform you of your due process rights.

If you did not receive appropriate written notice, you may be able to get the services re-instated while your situation regarding changes to the IFSP is reviewed by the Regional Center. As a parent with a child enrolled in Early Start, you are entitled to certain protections.

Start the process by contacting your Regional Center Service Coordinator and ask:

- To start a due process procedure.
- To review the "proposed change" in writing.
- For a copy of the due process information in your language.
- For reinstatement of services that were changed while the process is reviewed.

Keep a record of date, who you talked to, what you asked for, and when to expect the information, reinstatement of services, etc.

Disability Rights California has a form in Spanish and English that you can also use to request the process to start. A series of Fact Sheets on Early Start that outline the process is on: <http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/news/Finalized%20Fact%20Sheets.7.30.09%20PDF/3%20Early%20Start%20080709.pdf>

The LA CA. Disability Rights Regional Office at (213) 427-8747, TTY (800) 719-5798, toll free (800) 776-5746, is hosting a series of 10 phone conferences on how to file an appeal to any recent changes between September 4th and 17th. Schedule an appointment.

Resources:

Addresses of California Regional Centers:

<http://www.dds.ca.gov/RC/RClst.cfm>

Parents Rights Booklet:

http://www.dds.ca.gov/EarlyStart/docs/Parents_Rights_Guide_Sum_Eng.pdf

Early Start Mediation Requests: http://www.dds.ca.gov/complaints/complt_ESMediation.cfm

Infant Development Association: <http://www.idaofcal.org>