

You Have the Right to a State Hearing

You have the right to have a state hearing when the County Job and Family Services office does something that you think is wrong. You have the right to a state hearing whether you are getting aid now or just applied for help. You have the right to a state hearing for all assistance programs.



When do I have a right to a state hearing?

The County Job and Family Services office:

- Stops or cuts your benefits.
- Assigns you work that is unhealthy or unsafe for you to do.
- Assigns you work that is for too many hours.
- Denies your request for benefits or necessary medical care.
- Sanctions you.
- Pays you an amount of benefits you think is not correct.
- Delays or refuses to approve your application for benefits.
- Refuses to add a new family member to your cases.

These are just a few examples. You have a right to a state hearing whenever you disagree with an action or inaction by the County JFS.



What do I do if I get a notice?

If you get a notice denying, reducing, or stopping your benefits, fill out the hearing request form that is part of the notice. Then,

- Mail it to the Bureau of State Hearings, or
- Give it to the County JFS office, or
- Fax it to the Bureau of State Hearings at (614) 728-9574, or
- Email your request to the Bureau of State Hearings at BSH@jfs.ohio.gov.

Get and keep a receipt. Ask for the state hearing right away. You will not get a state hearing if you ask for it more than 90 days after the mailing date on the notice.



What happens before my state hearing?

If you are getting benefits and get a notice saying they will stop or be cut, you can keep getting your full benefits until the state hearing is decided if you ask for a state hearing within 15 days of the mailing date on the notice.

If your benefits are cut or stopped if you asked for a state hearing within 15 days, you can call the Bureau of State Hearings at (866) 635-3748 for help to get your benefits reinstated.



What is a state hearing?

A hearing officer listens to the agency and you. Then, the hearing officer decides who is right. A state hearing not as formal as a court case. The hearing will be tape recorded.

The agency will explain what it has done or plans to do in your case. Then, you tell why you disagree. You can bring other people to be witnesses. You can give other types of evidence, like documents. You can bring a friend, relative, paralegal, or attorney with you to help.

The hearing officer:

- Will listen to the evidence on both sides and ask questions.
- Will not make a decision at the hearing.
- Will review the evidence from the hearing and mail you a written decision.



What happens after my state hearing?

You can write to the Bureau of State Hearings to ask for an audio copy of your state hearing record and the recording. You will get a written decision in the mail a few weeks after the hearing.

- If you win your state hearing, the decision will say “sustained.” The agency must comply with the state hearing decision within 15 days.
- If you lose your state hearing, the decision will say “overruled.”



What can I do if I lose my state hearing?

You can file an administrative appeal. You should get a form with your state hearing decision that you can use to ask for the administrative appeal. You must say why you think you should have won the hearing. Your appeal must be received within 15 days of the mailing date on the state hearing decision.

If you lose your administrative appeal, you can appeal to the Common Pleas Court in your county. Your appeal must be filed within 30 days of the mailing date on the administrative appeals decision.

**The information on this flyer is not legal advice.
If you are seeking representation or legal advice, please contact SEOLS.
An attorney-client relationship does not exist between you and SEOLS.**

How to contact SEOLS:

Athens Office	740.594.3558 800.686.3669	New Philadelphia Office	330.339.3998 800.686.3670
Serving Gallia, Meigs, Morgan, Noble, Vinton, and Washington Counties		Serving Coshocton, Guernsey, Holmes, and Tuscarawas Counties	
Chillicothe Office	740.773.0012 800.686.3668	Portsmouth Office	740.354.7563 800.837.2508
Serving Fairfield, Fayette, Hocking, Jackson, Pickaway, Pike, and Ross Counties		Serving Adams, Lawrence, and Scioto Counties	
Newark Office	740.345.0850 888.831.9412	Steubenville Office	740.283.4781 800.837.4781
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