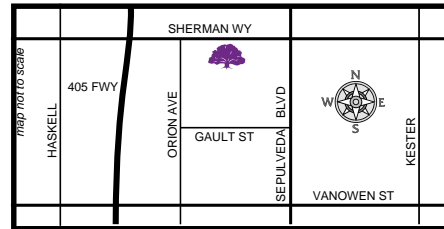
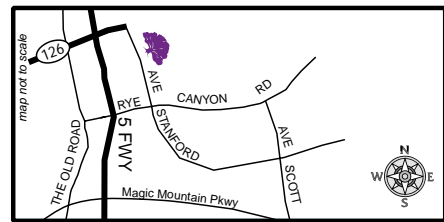


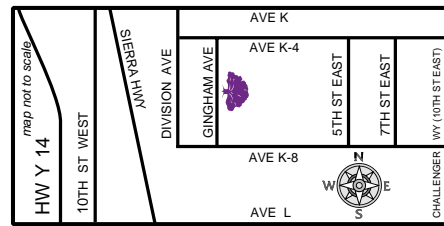
NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER



Main Office
15400 Sherman Way, Suite 170
Van Nuys, CA 91406
(818) 778-1900



Santa Clarita Office
28470 Ave. Stanford, Suite 100
Santa Clarita, CA 91355
(661) 775-8450



Antelope Valley Office
43210 Gingham Ave. Suite 6
Lancaster, CA 93535
(661) 945-6761

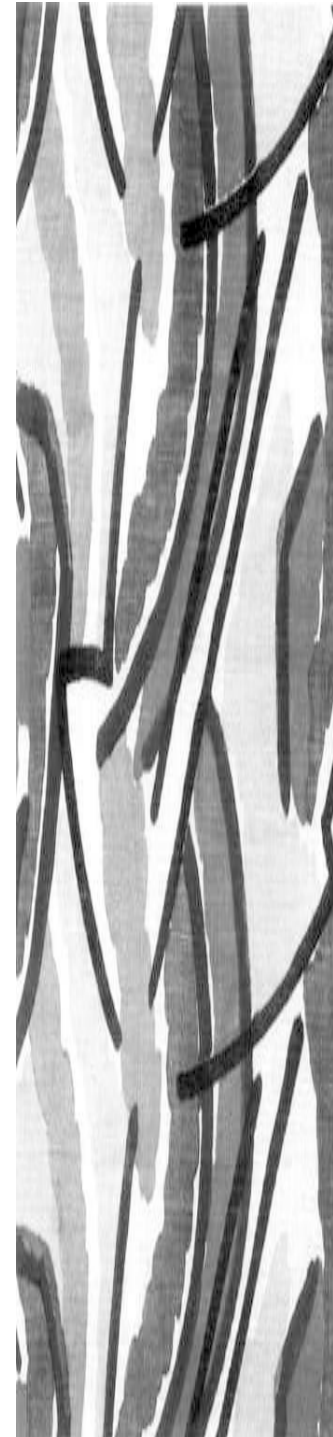
Office Hours

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Emergencies

We are on-call 24 hours
(818) 778-1900

www.nlacrc.org



Consumer Rights Complaint Process



Supporting People with
Developmental Disabilities
in the San Fernando,
Santa Clarita and Antelope Valleys
for more than 25 years

Revised Feb. 2002

Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 4731

Consumer Rights Complaint Process

Consumers and their families have a legal right to file a complaint if they feel their rights have been violated or unreasonably denied. Below is a step-by-step guide to filing complaints (see “How It Works”). Also included in this brochure is the law which provides for this complaint process. If you need more information on filing a complaint, please call the contract administrator at (818) 778-1900.

This is the law: Section 4731. (a) Each consumer or any representative acting on behalf of any consumer or consumers, who believes that any right to which a consumer is entitled has been abused, punitively withheld, or improperly or unreasonably denied by a regional center, developmental center, or service provider, may pursue a complaint as provided in this section.

(b) Initial referral of any complaint taken pursuant to this section shall be to the director of the regional center from which the consumer receives case management services. If the consumer resides in a state developmental center, the complaint shall be made to the director of that state developmental center. The director shall, within 20 working days of receiving a complaint, investigate the complaint and send a written proposed resolution to the complainant and, if applicable, to the service provider. The written proposed resolution shall include a telephone number and mailing address for referring the proposed resolution in accordance with subdivision (c).

(c) If the complainant is not satisfied with the proposed resolution, the complainant may refer the complaint, in writing, to the Director of Developmental Services within 15 working days of receipt of the proposed resolution. The director shall, within 45 days of receiving a complaint, issue a written administrative decision and send a copy of the decision to the complainant, the director of the regional center or state developmental center, and the service provider, if applicable. If there is no referral to the department, the proposed resolution shall become effective on the 20th working day following receipt by the complainant.

(d) The department shall annually compile the number of complaints filed, by each regional center and state developmental center catchment area, the subject matter of each complaint, and a summary of each decision. Copies shall be made available to any person upon request.

(e) This section shall not be used to resolve disputes concerning the nature, scope, or amount of services and supports that should be included in an individual program plan, for which there is an appeal procedure established in this division, or disputes regarding rates or audit appeals for which there is an appeal procedure established in regulations. Those disputes shall be resolved through the appeals procedure established by this division or in regulations.

(f) All consumers or, where appropriate, their parents, legal guardian, conservator, or authorized representative, shall be notified in writing in a language which they comprehend, of the right to file a complaint pursuant to this section when they apply for services from a regional center or are admitted to a developmental center, and at each regularly scheduled planning meeting.

How It Works

Instructions on how to file a complaint

- 1) A consumer or any representative acting on behalf of the consumer, sends a letter stating the complaint to the executive director of the regional center from which the consumer receives services. If the consumer lives in a developmental center, the letter should be sent to the director of the developmental center.
- 2) The executive director or his designee, investigates the complaint and sends a written proposed resolution within 20 working days.
- 3) If the complainant (consumer or representative of consumer) is not satisfied with the course of action or the proposed resolution, the complainant may refer the complaint in writing, within 15 working days of receipt of the proposed resolution, to:

Cliff Allenby, Director
Department of Developmental Services
1600 Ninth Street, Suite 240, MS 215
Attn: OHRAS
Sacramento, California 95814
Tel: (916) 654-1888

- 4) The director of the department issues a decision within 45 days and mails a copy to the complainant, the director of the regional center or developmental center, and the service provider if applicable.

Remove this insert for future use. To file a complaint about a violation of your rights by the regional center, a developmental center or a service provider, complete this form, fold as shown, add postage and mail.

Attn: George Stevens III
Executive Director

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
15400 Sherman Way, Suite 170
Van Nuys, CA 91406

Fold (inward) to mail



George Stevens III
Regional Center
Executive Director
(818) 778-1900

All complaints should be sent to the regional center executive director who will assure that the rights of each person with a developmental disability are guaranteed, protected and asserted as requested by or on behalf of any consumer. He will investigate and facilitate the resolution of complaints concerning any abuse, punitive withholding, or improper or unreasonable denial of any right, which is brought by or on behalf of any consumer.

(See address on last page)

Place
stamp
here