

Appendix F: Participant Rights

Appendix F-1: Opportunity to Request a Fair Hearing

The state provides an opportunity to request a Fair Hearing under 42 CFR Part 431, Subpart E to individuals: (a) who are not given the choice of home and community-based services as an alternative to the institutional care specified in Item 1-F of the request; (b) are denied the service(s) of their choice or the provider(s) of their choice; or, (c) whose services are denied, suspended, reduced or terminated. The state provides notice of action as required in 42 CFR §431.210.

Procedures for Offering Opportunity to Request a Fair Hearing. Describe how the individual (or his/her legal representative) is informed of the opportunity to request a fair hearing under 42 CFR Part 431, Subpart E. Specify the notice(s) that are used to offer individuals the opportunity to request a Fair Hearing. State laws, regulations, policies and notices referenced in the description are available to CMS upon request through the operating or Medicaid agency.

An individual/participant is advised routinely of his or her due process and appeal rights in accordance with OLTL policies. A participant will have his or her rights to file a fair hearing request discussed at time of enrollment, annually during the ISP annual review meeting and at any time the participant requests to change services or add new services. The OLTL Participant Information Packet, containing information about appeals and fair hearings, is distributed to the participant at enrollment and during the ISP annual review meeting.

The IEE is required to provide information on due process and appeal rights to the applicant utilizing OLTL issued standard forms when the following circumstances occur:

1. The participant is not given the choice of home or community-based waiver services as an alternative to institutional care
2. The individual is denied his or her preference of waiver or nursing facility services.

The Service Coordinator is required to provide information on due process and appeal rights to the participant utilizing OLTL issued standard forms any time the following circumstances occur:

1. The participant is not given the choice of home or community-based waiver services as an alternative to institutional care
2. The individual is denied his or her preference of waiver or nursing facility services.
3. The participant is denied his or her request for a new Waiver-funded service(s), including the amount, duration, and scope of service(s).
4. The participant is denied the choice of willing and qualified Waiver provider(s).
5. A decision or an action is taken to deny, suspend, reduce, or terminate a Waiver-funded service authorized on the participant's ISP or when the participant is involuntarily terminated from participant direction.

The IEE/Service Coordinator are required to make all such notices in writing utilizing OLTL issued documents. Should the applicant/participant choose to file an appeal, they must do so with the agency that made the determination being questioned. Title 55 Pa. Code §275.4(a)(2) states that individuals must file an appeal with the agency that made the determination being questioned, and §275.1(a)(3) specifically includes social service agencies: “the term Department includes, in addition to County Assistance Offices, agencies which administer or provide social services under contractual agreement with the Department.” The agency which receives the appeal from the participant will forward it to the Department’s Bureau of Hearings and Appeals for action.

It is the responsibility of the Service Coordinator/IEE to provide any assistance the participant/applicant needs to request a hearing. This may include the following:

- Clearly explaining the basis for questioned decisions or actions.
- Explaining the rights and fair hearing proceedings of the applicant or participant.
- Providing the necessary forms and explaining to the applicant or participant how to file his or her appeal and, if necessary, how to fill out the forms.
- Advising the applicant or participant that he or she may be represented by an attorney, relative, friend or other spokesman and providing information to assist the applicant or participant to locate legal services available in the county.

Certain Waiver actions related to level of care and Medicaid ineligibility are also subject to fair hearing and appeal procedures established through the local County Assistance Office (CAO). AAA participation is expected in preparation for the hearing and at the hearing whenever the CAO sends a notice confirming the initial level of care determination and the individual appeals that notice through the CAO. Service Coordinators are expected to participate when the CAO sends a notice confirming the level of care redetermination and the individual appeals that notice through the CAO.

The Service Coordinator is required to provide an advance written notice of at least 10 calendar days to the participant anytime the Service Coordinator initiates action to reduce, suspend, change, or terminate a Waiver service. The advance notice, which is sent by the Service Coordinator, shall contain a date that the appeal must be received by the Service Coordinator to have the services that are already being provided at the time of the appeal continue during the appeal process.

If the participant files an appeal (written or oral) within 10 calendar days of the mailing date of the written notification from the Service Coordinator, the appealed Waiver service(s) are required to continue until a decision is rendered after the appeal hearing (55 Pa. Code § 275.4(a)(3)(v)(C)(I)). As noted above, the continuation language is included in the written notice that is sent to the participant by the Service Coordinator. The postmark of a mailed appeal will be used to determine if the 10 day requirement was met by the participant.

Fair hearing requests are collected in a statewide database and due process is monitored by OLTL.

Appendix F-2: Additional Dispute Resolution Process

- a. **Availability of Additional Dispute Resolution Process.** Indicate whether the state operates another dispute resolution process that offers participants the opportunity to appeal decisions that adversely affect their services while preserving their right to a Fair Hearing. *Select one:*

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	No. This Appendix does not apply
<input type="radio"/>	Yes. The state operates an additional dispute resolution process

- b. **Description of Additional Dispute Resolution Process.** Describe the additional dispute resolution process, including: (a) the state agency that operates the process; (b) the nature of the process (i.e., procedures and timeframes), including the types of disputes addressed through the process; and, (c) how the right to a Medicaid Fair Hearing is preserved when a participant elects to make use of the process: State laws, regulations, and policies referenced in the description are available to CMS upon request through the operating or Medicaid agency.

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Appendix F-3: State Grievance/Complaint System

a. Operation of Grievance/Complaint System. *Select one:*

<input type="radio"/>	No. This Appendix does not apply
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Yes. The state operates a grievance/complaint system that affords participants the opportunity to register grievances or complaints concerning the provision of services under this waiver

b. Operational Responsibility. Specify the state agency that is responsible for the operation of the grievance/complaint system:

The Office of Long Term Living (OLTL) is responsible for the operation of the grievance/complaint system.

c. Description of System. Describe the grievance/complaint system, including: (a) the types of grievances/complaints that participants may register; (b) the process and timelines for addressing grievances/complaints; and, (c) the mechanisms that are used to resolve grievances/complaints. State laws, regulations, and policies referenced in the description are available to CMS upon request through the Medicaid agency or the operating agency (if applicable).

<p>OLTL operates a Customer Service line, also known as the OLTL HelpLine. The OLTL HelpLine (1-800-757-5042) is located in the Bureau of Participant Operations and is staffed by OLTL personnel during normal business hours. Participants, family members and other interested parties use the HelpLine to report complaints/grievances regarding the provision/timeliness of services, provider performance, and reports of alleged abuse, neglect or exploitation.</p> <p>Individuals calling the OLTL HelpLine with a complaint/grievance are logged into the Enterprise Information System (EIM), a web-based database, and the information is then referred to the appropriate Bureau for resolution. Complaints are classified as Urgent if immediate action is required to assist in safeguarding the participant’s health and welfare or Non-Urgent if the participant is not at risk of immediate health and jeopardy and immediate action is not required. Any complaints determined to be an incident as described in Appendix G are entered into EIM as an incident and are treated as such for purposes of investigation and follow-through.</p> <p>Investigations of Urgent complaints must be initiated within one business day, while Non-Urgent complaints have a five day timeframe for complaint initiation of the investigation. Any complaint determined to be an incident as described in Appendix G will be handled in accordance with all applicable requirements. The receiving Bureau contacts the participant, their service coordinator, and/or other necessary parties in order to determine all circumstances regarding the complaint and to make a determination about an appropriate resolution. Documentation of any actions and the resolution is entered into the database by OLTL staff and the complaint is submitted through EIM for supervisory review. The reviewing supervisor can accept the resolution allowing for closure of the complaint or send it back to staff for further action. The timeframe for additional follow-up and resolution is 45 days, but additional time can be requested through EIM in accordance with OLTL requirements. OLTL is able to generate</p>

reports from EIM about the types of participant complaints received, timeliness of resolution and examines general patterns and trends for system improvement.

In addition, EIM is designed to collect complaints received from any source, such as direct phone calls, emails, and letters or faxes in order to standardize collection and processing of all complaints in one data collection system. Participants are informed verbally and in the OLTL Participant Information Packet about the OLTL Participant HelpLine at enrollment, during their annual reevaluation, and in the cover letter that accompanies the OLTL Participant Satisfaction Surveys.

Participants are advised through OLTL's standard participant information materials that OLTL's grievance/complaint system is neither a pre-requisite, nor a substitute for a fair hearing.