

CCWRO Welfare News

Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc.
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Making Less than Minimum Wage Child Care Provider Is Denied Payments

Thousands of childcare providers are being denied payments for their labor because their employers submitted the childcare claim form beyond the 30-day time lines imposed by Welfare and Institutions Code Section 1323.3. The State conditions child care payments upon the submission of a claim form that is not even readily accessible to the child care provider or the welfare recipient.

W&IC§11323.3(b)(4) states that DSS shall have a form which provides the following information to the applicant or recipient: (4) The recipient is required to request a child care subsidy from the county within 30 days from the first day child care services are received from each different provider, to be fully reimbursed for child care services.

The form provides: "I understand that I need to request paid child care within 30 calendar days from the first day I received services from my provider. This way, my child care provider can be paid for the services s/he provides to me."

The statute does not require DSS to inform child care recipients on how to request child care. In fact, there is a form (CCP-2145) that is used to request child care, but it is not easily accessible to welfare parents.

There are immense barriers between form CCP-2145 and the childcare

recipient. First you must reach your worker during their phone hours (usually during the recipient's work hours and the calls are often not returned). When the recipient does reach the worker he/she is given an appointment to meet with the worker. Then the recipient must take time off work to go to the appointment.

There is no regulation that provides for three (3) months of child care request forms if a person identifies their need for child care. The system was never meant to help people get child care, it was designed to find ways to pay child care providers as little as possible.

Many are denied child care because they failed to attend their child care orientation. Often, these orientations conflict with their work schedules. If they want child care, they must take time off of work endangering their employment.

County Client Abuse Report

Applicants in need of emergency assistance get an interview after 47 days. Ms. C.L. who was homeless, penniless and foodless, applied for welfare in Sacramento County on 6/4/10. After waiting 2 hours, she went up to the

window and was told to wait. She continued waiting. After 4-5 hours she went home. She never received a Notice of Action about the disposition of her entitlement to CalWORKs Immediate need or Expedited Service Food Stamps. Finally, on 7/21/10, she had a face-to-face interview.

Sacramento County denies a 2008 Medi-Cal application in 2010. Mr. B3004524 received a Notice of Action from Sacramento County on 5/8/10 denying his 06/26/2008 Medi-Cal application. The notice even explained why it was denied. "Your property is above the allowable limit. The limit is \$3,600"

Los Angeles County refuses to conduct an annual re-determination of a working mom, then terminates her benefits. Ms. T48559D, of Los Angeles County, came in for her yearly redetermination on 6/2/10. She took the day off of work to make this appointment. After waiting four hours she was told her worker wasn't in. A new appointment for June 24th was given. On June 24th Ms. T48559D took another day off work and waited four hours only to be told her worker, once again, wasn't there. On this day, a worker of the day (WOD) took pity on her, helped her complete her yearly redetermination and placed it on her worker's desk.

Ms. T48559D thought she had finally assured her continued aid in July. LA County thought otherwise. Ms. T48559D was discontinued on July 1st for failure to complete her yearly redetermination. After two appointments where her worker failed to appear, after waiting four hours on two occasions, after missing two days of work and after completing the redetermination anyway, Ms. T48559D was illegally discontinued. Ms. T48559D attempts to clear up this situation were useless as South Family District #31 refused to communicate with her. The Deputy District Director went so far as to claim Ms. T48559D had been contacted on July 8th to set up a third redetermination appointment. No call was placed to Ms. T48559D on July 8th nor were the multiple messages left on her workers phone responded to. Eventually, the completed redetermination was found on the workers desk after two weeks of ignored phone calls and no July aid for Ms. T48559D. Perhaps if South Family District #31 showed more concern about the time and needs of their recipients Ms. T48559D would not have been made to suffer needlessly in this manner. Ms. T48559D is very fortunate that she has an understanding boss – who did not fire her for spending so much at the welfare office needlessly. Welfare to Work is a program designed to

make welfare recipients self-sufficient – endangering their continued employment when we have 5 people for one job in California is not promoting self-sufficiency.

Sacramento County refuses to Issue Emergency Assistance- has the security guard remove the victim from the welfare office.

Ms. L.C., of Sacramento County, applied for cash aid, food stamps and Medi-Cal on 7/9/10 and was given an appointment for July 12th. On the 12th she had most of the required verification. She did not have her birth certificate or her son's. However, the county was in possession of these birth certificates when she was previously on aid. Moreover, the Medi-Cal system had her birth certificates through the SSN Match system. She also did not have her SSN card, but had the number.

On the 7/12 she was told that her food stamps had been approved. Yet, to date, she has not received them. She returned to DHA V-100 on July 20th. She was handed a Notice of Action denying Immediate Need. The IN denial was due to a failure to cooperate with child support (she claims good cause due to domestic violence) and for not having proof that she applied for a SSN. She already had social security numbers and the county is more than capable of verifying her SSN on the applicant IEVS screen.

She is ill and needs Medi-Cal to get medical treatment, but DHA refuses to give her a Medi-Cal Card or approve her Medi-Cal. When she went to the window to complain that the County was violating her rights she was escorted out of V-100 of by the sheriffs.

Who we are

The Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc. (CCWRO) has been providing advocacy in the public benefits field since the early 1980s. CCWRO is a statewide nonprofit organization that provides back-up services to qualified legal service field programs funded by the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission and and pro-bono attorneys referred to CCWRO by such legal services field programs.

CCWRO provides consultation, information, training and representation on issues relating to public benefit programs such as Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) aka CalWORKs/TANF, Refugee Assistance, Medi-Cal, Welfare Employment Programs, Food Stamps, General Assistance, Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) and SSI.

Attached is a pdf copy of the latest **CCWRO 2010 Public Assistance Table.**

You can also find a copy at: ccwro.org