

CHANGING YOUR MEDIATOR OR HEARING OFFICER

How to Request a Different Mediator or Hearing Officer?

You can request a different mediator or hearing officer. Requesting a different hearing officer or mediator is called disqualification.

Steps you can take if you think a mediator will not be fair.

There are two ways you or the regional center can request a different mediator.

- You can make a written request to the Hearing Office before the mediation.
- You can request a new mediator at the start of the mediation.

You will need to explain why you think that the mediator can't be fair. The Hearing Office or mediator will decide if a different mediator will be assigned.

Steps you can take if you think the hearing officer will not be fair.

- There are two ways you or the regional center can request a different hearing officer. You can make a written request to the Hearing Office before the hearing.
- You can request a new hearing officer at the start of the hearing.

You will need to explain why you think that the hearing officer can't be fair. The Hearing Office or the hearing officer will decide if a different hearing officer will be assigned. If a different hearing officer is not assigned, a reconsideration may be requested after you receive the hearing decision. You may raise this issue in a reconsideration. More information on reconsideration is online here:

<https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Reconsideration-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

How to Get Help

You may get help to understand your appeal rights. Some agencies that may be able to help are found by clicking the "Getting Help" tab at:

<https://www.dds.ca.gov/general/appeals-complaints-comments/fair-hearings-complaint-process/lanterman-act-appeals-information-packet/>

