



Information about General Relief Appeals

This is information that will help you if you get a notice that your General Relief benefits are being changed, suspended or if your application is denied or you are being charged with an overpayment. General relief benefits are administered by LA County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), not the State of California. So remember to always check the documents you receive and go to the General Relief office, not the state office you might have worked with for other benefits, like CalFresh or Medi-Cal.

Here's how the General Relief appeals process works:

Step 1: First, you will get a notice from the County DPSS office that they are taking an “adverse action” against you – like lowering or stopping your benefits. You will be given a hearing date automatically – it will be on the notice you receive. You must show up for the hearing or you will lose automatically. The hearing dates come up very fast – often within a week of the date on the notice. There will be a number on the notice you can call if you need to change the hearing date.

Step 2: The hearing will take place at the General Relief office - the location will be on the notice. Usually it is the district office that handles your general relief case. The hearing will be with a supervisor at the office who acts as the decision maker. It is very informal: the supervisor will ask you questions and you'll have the opportunity to tell your side of the story and present any evidence – for example, documents proving your income, your address, or proving that you followed the county's rules for getting general relief.

Step 3: Decision - You will be notified in writing whether you won or lost the appeal. If you lose, you can appeal directly to California Superior Court by requesting a Petition for Writ of Mandate. In most cases, you only have 90 days from the date you are notified that the county's decision is final to file a petition in Superior Court.