

## State Hearings and Public Benefits in Ohio



### What is a state hearing?

A state hearing is an informal hearing where a hearing officer listens to both the agency and you and decides who is correct. It is tape recorded and a written decision will be issued after your hearing.

The Agency will go first and explain what it has done or plans to do in your case. Then you can explain why you disagree. You can bring other people as witnesses; give other types of evidence, like documents; or bring a friend, relative, paralegal or attorney with you to help.



### When do I have a right to a state hearing?

You have a right to a state hearing if the County Department of Job and Family Services (CDJFS) office does something you think is wrong like:

- Stops or cuts your benefits or pays you an amount you think is wrong
- Assigns you to a work site that is unhealthy, unsafe, or too far from where you live OR assigns you too many work hours
- Gives you an assignment you cannot do OR refuses to give you an alternative or developmental assignment while you cannot work
- Denies your request for any benefits or fails to provide supportive services
- Sanctions you
- Discourages you from applying, or delays or refuses to process your application
- Refuses to add a new family member to your case



### What should I do if I get a notice and disagree?

If you get a notice, review it carefully. If the notice says your benefits are denied, reduced, or stopped, ask for a state hearing right away. Your request must be made within 90 days from the mailing date of the notice. To keep your benefits during your appeal, ask for a hearing within 15 days from the mailing date.

Fill out the state hearing request form that is part of the notice or submit a hearing request online at: [secure.jfs.ohio.gov/ols/RequestHearing](https://secure.jfs.ohio.gov/ols/RequestHearing). You can also submit a hearing request through your online portal, or by:

- Phone – Call ODJFS Consumer Access Line at 1-866-635-3748 and follow the prompts for State Hearings.
- Email – [BSH@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:BSH@jfs.ohio.gov). In the subject line put “State Hearing Request”
- Fax – send to fax number 614-728-9574
- Mail – to ODJFS, Bureau of State Hearings, P.O. Box 182825, Columbus, OH 43218-2825, or
- Take to your local JFS - Give it to the front desk at the CDJFS office and ask them to submit it to Bureau of State Hearings. (Ask for a copy and get a document receipt for your records.)

Your State Hearing Request should include:

- Your full name
- Address
- Case number
- Phone number where you can be reached
- Programs you want to request your hearing about
- The county JFS which took the action, and
- A brief statement about why you want a hearing.



### **Where can I get help with my hearing?**

If you have questions about your notice or want legal help with your hearing, call 1-866-529-6446 to find your local Legal Aid program.

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*The information on this flyer is not legal advice. If you are seeking representation or legal advice, please contact SEOLS. An attorney-client relationship does not exist between you and SEOLS.*

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### **How to contact SEOLS:**

**[www.seols.org](http://www.seols.org)**

**Athens Office**      **740.594.3558**  
**800.686.3669**

Serving Gallia, Meigs, Morgan, Noble, Vinton, and Washington Counties

**Chillicothe Office**      **740.773.0012**  
**800.686.3668**

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**New Philadelphia Office**      **330.339.3998**  
**800.686.3670**

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**Portsmouth Office**      **740.354.7563**  
**800.837.2508**

Serving Adams, Lawrence, and Scioto Counties

**Steubenville Office**      **740.283.4781**  
**800.837.4781**

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