

## SOLVING PROBLEMS

- If you cannot work or do your welfare-to-work activity the full 32-35 hours a week, you should be **exempt**. See "Exemption" brochure.
- If the county said you need training, it should not put you into work just because you have a learning disability.
- If you disagree with the welfare-to-work plan made after the learning disability evaluation, you have the right to a "Third Party Assessment." A neutral person will look at your accommodation and employment needs.
- If you were never screened, even if you turned it down before, you can get screened now.
- If you were sanctioned, ask to be screened.

Problems? Ask for a state hearing. Fill out the back of any Notice of Action or call 800-952-5253.

**Call Legal Services**

Prepared by  
Legal Services of Northern California  
[www.lsnrc.net](http://www.lsnrc.net)

## CalWORKs

*Making it Work for You*

# Learning Disabilities

*Getting  
Appropriate  
CalWORKs Services*



# YOUR RIGHTS

## Why Should CalWORKs Know?

If you have a disability, you have special protections in CalWORKs and at work.



## Signs of Learning Disabilities

These are some signs that you *may have* a learning disability.

- It's hard for you to fill out forms or follow directions.
- People don't get what you try to say.
- You were in special education or got extra help in school.

People with learning disabilities can have a lot of problems with some things, but do great in others.

**How Do I Find Out?** CalWORKs must offer you a **Learning Disabilities Screen** to see if you *may* have a Learning Disability.

**Why get screened?** If you *do* have a learning disability:

- You can learn your strengths and find ways to make it easier for you to learn and do better in school and at work.
- The county can help you get into the right kind of welfare-to-work activity, such as training.



## What is the Screen Like?

- The screen is very simple. It only takes about 30 minutes. It is just a few questions about your learning experiences and your health.
- The screen is confidential. It is your choice if you want to do it. Let your worker know if you want to be screened.

## What Happens After the Screen?

- The screen will help you decide if you want to go to a specialist to find out if you *really* have a learning disability.
- The specialist can suggest ways to help you get around your learning weaknesses.
- If county's specialist says you are not learning disabled, *and you do not agree*, ask for a hearing. You also can try to get another opinion on



your own, through Medi-Cal or the Department of Rehabilitation.

## Accommodations

- If you have a learning (or other) disability, CalWORKs must see if it should change its rules or services to help you. This is called an **"accommodation."**
- Accommodations can help you meet the CalWORKs rules, get the most out of your program. They can help you avoid a sanction (cut in aid).
- Accommodations are personal to *you*, based on what *you* need.
- Let your worker know what has helped you succeed in the past, if you know.
- **Examples:**
  - If you have memory problems, giving you a tape recorder or information in writing, so you can go back over instructions or lessons.
  - If you have reading problems, going over materials out loud.
  - Extra time to take exams.

## I Wasn't Accommodated!

You can get **more training time** if the county:

- didn't screen you **or**
- didn't give you

