

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

1215 O Street, MS 9-70  
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March 2, 2023

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF FINAL HEARING DECISIONS

The State's budget trailer bill for developmental services, SB 188 (Chapter 49, Statutes of 2022), adds Section 4713.5 to the Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code concerning regional centers' responsibility to implement final hearing decisions. Section 84 of SB 188 also provides authority for implementation of specific provisions pursuant to written directives from the Department of Developmental Services (Department).

Effective July 1, 2022, W&I Code Section 4713.5 requires regional centers to implement final hearing decisions as soon as practicable and not later than 30 calendar days after the date of the final hearing decision. If a regional center is unable to implement a final hearing decision within 30 days, it must notify the claimant and their authorized representative, in writing, of the exceptional circumstances that prevent the regional center from timely implementing the final decision, and the date the decision will be implemented.

Regional centers should follow the template letter for this notification, which is found in the Forms section of the Department's Lanterman Act appeal process website: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/general/appeals-complaints-comments/fair-hearings-complaint-process/>. A copy of the notification sent to the claimant must be provided to the Department by completing the [online form for regional centers](#) found in the "Delayed Implementation of Hearing Decisions Requirements section of the Department's Lanterman Act appeal process website: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/general/appeals-complaints-comments/fair-hearings-complaint-process/>.

If the claimant or their authorized representative is dissatisfied with the regional center's compliance, they may contact the Department by calling the Office of Community Appeals and Resolutions at (916) 245-8220, by email at [HearingImplementation@dds.ca.gov](mailto:HearingImplementation@dds.ca.gov), or by completing the [online form for claimants](#) found in the "Delayed Implementation of Hearing Decisions Requirements section of the Department's Lanterman Act appeal process website.

**"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"**

Regional Center Executive Directors  
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If you have questions regarding this hearing decision implementation directive, please contact the Office of Community Appeals and Resolutions at the telephone number or email address in the second paragraph of this directive.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by:*

PETE CERVINKA  
Chief, Data Analytics and Strategy

cc: Regional Center Administrators  
Regional Center Community Services Directors  
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services  
Association of Regional Center Agencies  
Brian Winfield, Department of Developmental Services  
Ernie Cruz, Department of Developmental Services