



Don't Hesitate...Initiate!

There is a popular quote by political and spiritual leader, Mahatma Ghandi that simply (yet profoundly) says, "Be the change that you want to see in the world". Well, in the world of CalWORKs and Social Services, changes that need to be made due to problems occurring with ones case, never appear to happen as fast as they should. Whenever there is a welfare problem, here are 4 ways to address them!

1. **Request a State Appeals Hearing before you are penalized. Fill out the back of a Notice of Action form and check ALL program boxes. This form can then be mailed or walked into the county office listed on the form. Calling 1-800-952-5253 and/or faxing the request to the state office (916) 229-4143 are other options that should be used together in requesting a hearing.**

REMEMBER TO MAKE COPIES, and REQUEST AND KEEP ALL RECEIPTS!!!!

2. **Get representation from a credible organization or agency, like LIFETIME, that is experienced in advocating on behalf of the needs of CalWORKs parents. Anyone, at least 18-years of age can also serve as an authorized representative.**
3. **Contact your worker and their supervisor, and their supervisor's supervisor if necessary. Go up the ladder! Try sorting things out with Social Services. It may be a misunderstanding or a matter of submitting a particular document(s).**
4. **Reapply for aid. Having another application pending approval may secure the benefits that are being threatened for reduction or termination, and void overpayment penalties.**

REMEMBER TO DO ALL 4 WHEN ADDRESSING A WELFARE ISSUE, and be sure to contact LIFETIME, if you need support and advocacy assistance.