

HOW TO ASK FOR A FAIR HEARING

Your Right to Appeal: If you disagree with the action by MassHealth, you have the right to appeal and ask for a fair hearing before an impartial hearing officer. The Board of Hearings must get your fair hearing request form no later than **30 calendar days** from the date you got MassHealth's official written notice telling you of the action to be taken.

If you want to ask for a fair hearing because MassHealth did not take action on your application or on your request for service, MassHealth did not send you a written notice of the action to be taken, or a MassHealth employee's behavior toward you was coercive or improper, the Board of Hearings must get your fair hearing request form no later than 120 calendar days from the date of your application or your request for service, MassHealth's action, or the MassHealth employee's improper behavior.

How to Appeal: To ask for a fair hearing, fill out the fair hearing request form (be sure to fill out **Section II-Reason for Appeal**) and send one copy with a copy of the MassHealth official written notice to: **Board of Hearings, Office of Medicaid, 100 Hancock Street, 6th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171** or fax them to **617-847-1204**. Please keep one copy of the fair hearing request form for your information.

If You Are Now Getting MassHealth: If the Board of Hearings gets your fair hearing request form before the date the action is taken or, if later, within 10 calendar days of the mailing date of MassHealth's written notice to you, you will keep getting MassHealth until a decision is made on your appeal. If you get MassHealth during your appeal, and then lose your appeal, you may have to pay MassHealth back for the cost of MassHealth benefits that you got during this time period. If you do not want to keep getting MassHealth during your appeal, please check **Box A in Section III** on the fair hearing request form. If you do not get MassHealth during your appeal, and then you win your appeal, MassHealth will restore your MassHealth benefits.

Date of Fair Hearing: At least 10 calendar days before the fair hearing, the Board of Hearings will send you a notice telling you the date, time, and place of the hearing. This will give you time to get ready for the hearing. If you want to have a fair hearing scheduled as soon as possible, check **Box B in Section III** on the fair hearing request form for an expedited hearing. If you have good cause for not being able to come to the hearing, or if you need a telephone hearing, you must call the Board of Hearings at **617-847-1200** or **1-800-655-0338** before the hearing date. If you do not reschedule or appear on time at the hearing without documented good cause, your appeal will be dismissed.

Your Right to Be Helped at the Hearing: At the hearing, you may represent yourself or be represented by a lawyer or other representative at your own expense. You may contact a local legal service or community agency to get advice or representation at no cost. To get information about legal service or community agencies, call the MassHealth Customer Service Center at 1-800-841-2900 (TTY: 1-800-497-4648 for people with partial or total hearing loss).

If You Need an Interpreter or an Assistive Device: If you do not understand English and/or are hearing or sight impaired, the Board of Hearings will provide an interpreter and/or assistive device for you at the hearing. Please check either **Box C or D, or both, in Section III** on the fair hearing request form if you need an interpreter or assistive device, or call the Board of Hearings at **617-847-1200** or **1-800-655-0338** at least five business days before the hearing.

Your Right to Review Your Case File: You and/or your representative can review your MassHealth case file before the hearing. To do this, call a MassHealth Enrollment Center at 1-888-665-9993 (TTY: 1-888-665-9997 for people with partial or total hearing loss) before the fair hearing.

Your MassHealth case file is not kept at the Board of Hearings.

Your Right to Ask to Subpoena Witnesses, and Your Right to Question: You or your representative may write to the Board of Hearings to ask that witnesses or documents be subpoenaed to the hearing. You or your representative may present evidence and cross-examine witnesses at the hearing. The hearing officer will make a decision based on all evidence presented at the fair hearing.

NONDISCRIMINATION NOTICE FOR APPLICANTS AND MEMBERS: Under federal and state law, MassHealth does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, creed, age, health status, or handicap.

FAIR HEARING REQUEST FORM

**FILL OUT ALL SECTIONS THAT APPLY.
PRINT CLEARLY.**

SECTION I: Applicant/Member Information

Name of Applicant or Member: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No.: () _____

MassHealth I.D. or Social Security Number: _____

Cardholder's Name on MassHealth card (if different): _____

SECTION II: Reason for Appeal

I, _____,

want a fair hearing because: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

SECTION III: Appeal Information

(Check the boxes that apply to you.)

- A. I do not want to keep getting MassHealth during the appeal process.
- B. I want an expedited hearing.
- C. I need an interpreter (what language?: _____) to be provided by the Board of Hearings.
- D. I need an assistive device to be provided by the Board of Hearings. (Describe what type of assistive device you need. For example: American Sign Language): _____

SECTION IV: Appeal Representative, if any

My appeal representative is: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No.: () _____