



FAQ on January 2018 Respite Changes

1. What changed with respite?

Answer: The State lifted the restriction that had been in place since 2009, which capped respite hour usage at 90 hours/quarter for families who do not have exceptions in place.

2. Why was this change enacted?

Answer: To address Purchase of Service (POS) funding disparities. The State believes that removing the quarterly cap on respite usage will give families of all ethnicities greater flexibility in how their respite care is received.

3. If my family is authorized for 30 hours/mo or less, can we now use more than 90 hours/quarter?

Answer: Yes if your family is authorized through TCRC you can use up to your total authorized amount for the fiscal year or authorization period (whichever ends first.) If your family's services are coordinated through North Los Angeles Regional Center, you'll need to stay within your monthly allotment of hours or contact your Service Coordinator (SC) to make a change to your authorization. Call our office with any questions.

4. If my family is already authorized for more than 30 hours/mo, is anything changing for us?

Answer: No, families with exceptions should schedule their respite care as authorized to meet their higher needs.

5. Can my family now qualify to receive more respite hours per month?

Answer: Generally, no, unless the needs of your child and/or family have changed since your last planning team meeting. Contact your Regional Center SC to discuss your needs. In most cases, increases to authorized mileage should also be considered by your SC if they are processing an increase in your respite hours.

6. Does the 40 hours/week caregiver overtime rule still apply?

Answer: Yes. All CISS Respite Caregivers can work up to a maximum of 40 hours/week. Some positions are limited to working up to 8 hours/day. Caregivers who need to exceed those hours must receive prior written approval from the CEO before working those hours. When calculating the 40 hours/week, all hours worked Sunday through Saturday by the employee for the agency are combined, plus travel time.

7. If my family wants to use our respite hours to go away for a few days, is this allowed?

Answer: This depends on many factors including your available balance of respite hours, your family member's needs, and availability of multiple trained caregivers since they each are allowed to work up to a maximum of 40 hours/week. Contact CISS well in advance before booking any travel reservations to discuss your options. You may need to call your Service Coordinator at the Regional Center if changes to your respite and mileage authorizations are necessary.

8. Do I still need to carefully track my respite hours?

Answer: Yes! Families who direct their Respite Caregivers to work beyond their authorized hours and/or beyond the hours approved by the agency have acted as their employer and the family will be responsible for paying those hours to the employee or to the agency.

9. If my family receives care in the Enhanced Respite program, do these changes apply to us?

Answer: Yes, but it is best to check with your Service Coordinator in case any changes need to be made to the authorization.

10. Is the Family Cost Participation Program (FCPP) still in effect?

Answer: Yes it is. No changes have been made to the FCPP program. Once your child reaches the age of 18, qualifies for Medi-Cal or enrolls in the Medicaid waiver program, the FCPP program no longer applies to your respite care and your family's income no longer needs to be verified by the regional center.