

## About FloridaLawHelp.org

FloridaLawHelp.org is administered by Florida Legal Services, Inc. and is produced in cooperation with Pro Bono Net and the legal services organizations and government agencies throughout Florida and the United States.

This brochure is for general education only. It is not intended to be used to solve *individual problems*. If you have specific questions, see an attorney.

 **The Florida Bar Foundation**  
Leadership & Funding for Legal Aid in Florida

The Florida Bar Foundation, with Interest on Trust Accounts program funding, provides support for this service.

 FLORIDA LEGAL SERVICES, INC.

# FloridaLawHelp.org

To locate your local legal aid or legal services office, please visit us on the web at

[www.floridalawhelp.org](http://www.floridalawhelp.org)

Your local legal aid or legal services office can be located through either the “Find Local Help” or “Directory” links.

If you don't have access to the internet, consult your local Directory Assistance for the number of the legal aid or legal services office nearest to you.

Special thanks to Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc.

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## SSI and MEDICAID for CHILDREN



## How do children on SSI qualify for Medicaid?

Children who receive SSI benefits are automatically eligible for Medicaid.



## What happens if a family receives a notice that their child's SSI benefits will stop?

If a family receives a notice that their child's SSI benefits will stop, the state must continue Medicaid eligibility for at least 50 days to give the family time to appeal the decision. If the family files an appeal and requests continued SSI benefits, the child will be eligible for Medicaid through the SSI appeals process. A request must be filed with the Social Security Administration within 60 days to appeal the end of SSI benefits. But to continue receiving benefits during the appeal, you must file within 10 days.



## What happens if DCF decides the child is not eligible for Medicaid?

DCF must give 10 days written notice before stopping the child's Medicaid. This notice must say why Medicaid is being stopped and how to request a fair hearing to appeal the decision. The family has 90 days to appeal the decision. **A Fair Hearing must be requested within ten (10) days for Medicaid coverage to continue through to your Fair Hearing.**



## How can I request a Medicaid fair hearing?

To request a fair hearing, you can write or fax:

Office of Appeal Hearings  
Dept. of Children & Families  
Building 5 – Room 203  
1317 Winewood Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0700  
Phone: (850) 488-1429  
Fax: (850) 487-0662

It is a good idea to keep a copy of your written request. If you call, you will want to follow your call with a letter and keep a copy of your letter.



## IMPORTANT

Be sure to ask for "aid-paid-pending the hearing" to make sure that Medicaid continues during the appeal.

If you need help with an SSI or Medicaid appeal, you can contact your local legal aid program.

