

Legally speaking.....

Did you know?

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BC INCOME ASSISTANCE APPEALS

BC Income Assistance programs are intended to support the dignity, health and safety of British Columbians who are out of work or who cannot work.

What is the appeals process?

There are basically two steps in the process.

1. Reconsideration Request
2. The Appeal Tribunal Hearing

Reconsideration Request: When you have been turned down by the Ministry and wish to appeal, you have 20 business days to start the appeal process. Remember there are time limits that you have to abide by.

Time limits are set out in business days. Saturdays, Sundays or Statutory holidays are not included. You need to fill out the appeal form called 'Request for Reconsideration'. You can get this form from your local welfare office or by calling 1-866-866-0800.

Make sure your worker has signed the form and it has the correct date when you found out about the decision. Return the completed form and supporting documents to the welfare office within 20 business days.

The Appeal Tribunal: You can appeal to a tribunal if you do not agree with the Reconsideration Request decision. You must appeal within 7 business days of receiving the decision by submitting a "Notice of Appeal" form.

Once the Appeal Tribunal has received your notice of appeal, the Appeal Tribunal will appoint a panel of three members to hear your case. The appeal panel will usually make a decision within 10 business days of hearing your case and will send you the decision in writing.

Contact the anti-poverty or welfare advocacy groups in your area if you need assistance in dealing with welfare appeals.

For More Information

You can access the Employment & Assistance Appeal Tribunal at: 250-356-6374 or toll-free long distance at 1-866-557-0035 or online at: www.gov.bc.ca/eaat. This is independent from the Ministry.



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