

How to File a Grievance Procedure If you are *NOT* receiving behavioral health services

Encompass Community Services (Encompass) is committed a transparent, prompt, and responsive way for you to express a grievance, free from intimidation and retaliation. Filing a grievance will not cause you to lose your rights or services. We want to understand your concern and reach a resolution that is agreeable to all parties involved.

Participants of our programs have the right and opportunity to express dissatisfaction with any aspect of or decision regarding their care and/or experience with Encompass at any time by initiating the *How to File a Grievance Procedure*. This procedure describes how you may file a grievance and the process for resolving grievances. This procedure is implemented consistent with laws and regulations regarding confidentiality.

What is a grievance?

A grievance is an expression of dissatisfaction about Encompass services. Reasons for initiating the *How to File a Grievance Procedure* may include -- but are not limited to -- harassment, health and safety concerns, program participant or program staff behavior, or adverse changes in program environment or facility conditions. You may file a grievance at any time.

What is the process for filing a grievance?

You may file the grievance with any Encompass staff or directly with the Encompass Quality Improvement Team. Grievances may be filed verbally or in writing (by submitting a completed *Encompass Grievance Resolution Request* brochure). The *Encompass Grievance Resolution Request* brochure is available onsite at the program or upon request. Grievances may be directed to:

Encompass Community Services
Attention: QI Department
380 Encinal Street, Suite 200
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Phone: (831) 469-1700
Email: QIOfficer@EncompassCS.org

All grievances will be reviewed by the Encompass Quality Improvement Team.

In Addition:

- If you are receiving psychotherapy services by a Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) licensed or registered provider, you can send a complaint regarding provided services by an AMFT / LMFT, ASW / LCSW, APCC / LPCC or licensed educational psychologist to the BBS online: www.bbs.ca.gov, or phone: (916) 574-7830.
- If you have a grievance regarding substance use disorder services you may also contact the State Department of Social Services: (800) 952-5253

Do you want help with the process?

Program staff and the Encompass Quality Improvement staff are happy to explain the grievance process to you and assist you in documenting your grievance at your request. Additionally, you may authorize any other person, including program staff, to act on your behalf regarding a grievance. A signed written consent form is encouraged if a representative is acting on your behalf.

When can I expect a response?

You will receive an initial response within one working day from the time the grievance was received. The Encompass Quality Improvement Team will investigate the grievance and pursue a resolution; this may include review by Encompass Program Leadership. A decision about the grievance will be sent to you in writing within 30 calendar days from the time the original grievance was received. A 14-day extension may be required if additional information collection or review is required and is in your best interest.

What if I am not satisfied with the outcome?

If you are not satisfied with the final resolution, you have the right to file another grievance.