

How to Help Children in Philadelphia Needing Early Intervention Services from Elwyn

Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania



Education Law Center

BACKGROUND

In April 2010, the Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania (DRN) and the Education Law Center (ELC) filed a complaint with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) against Elwyn, Inc. Elwyn contracts with the state to provide early intervention services to children with disabilities in Philadelphia from the time they turn 3 until they enroll in the Philadelphia School District. The complaint said that many children had experienced illegal delays or gaps in getting services, such as speech therapy and occupational therapy. The complaint also stated that Elwyn was not completing evaluations on time.

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

On June 21, 2010, PDE found that the complaint was valid and that Elwyn was violating special education law. PDE ordered Elwyn to:

- Contact all families that have had gaps in services for their children at any time since April 2009 and provide make-up services or reimburse families if they paid for services themselves during gaps in service.
- Make sure that there are enough therapists and other service providers so that children receive the services they need in the future in a timely way.
- Accept any willing and qualified provider to provide services to a child anywhere in Philadelphia.
- Give parents seeking an evaluation for their child the consent form to sign within 10 days. Parents should then sign and return that form to Elwyn quickly. Elwyn must complete the child's evaluation within 60 calendar days of when the form is returned.

WHO TO CALL

DRN and ELC want to know if your child has had problems getting services from Elwyn. Please contact us at the numbers listed below if your child had gaps in services from Elwyn since April 2009 and you have not received make-up services or reimbursement from Elwyn or if you know a child in such a situation. We would also like to know if Elwyn is not conducting evaluations within legal time limits or if there are other problems you are having getting a child needed help from Elwyn.

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