



DISABILITY RIGHTS OREGON

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MEDIA CONTACT: Elizabeth Seaberry
Communications Specialist
Disability Rights Oregon
Email: eseaberry@droregon.org
Phone: 503.243.2081
Mobile: 503.444.0026

People with Developmental Disabilities Win Temporary Freeze to Service Cuts

Portland, Oregon—Today, Disability Rights Oregon and the Oregon Department of Human Services agreed to a temporary freeze to ongoing cuts to in-home care services, while the parties try to create a long-term plan for assessing needs and providing fair notice to people with disabilities of changes to their services. This temporary halt will benefit thousands of people with disabilities across the state. This order is not a final fix, but it will allow services to remain in place as the case continues.

Judge Michael J. McShane of the U.S. District Court of Oregon in Eugene entered an order today granting a preliminary injunction. Though the case only named five individuals, the order covers everyone who receives in-home care services through the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services.

“This order is a positive first step toward ensuring that people with disabilities are able to live in the community where they want to be,” said Tom Stenson, litigation attorney with Disability Rights Oregon. “We’re hopeful that we can work with DHS to build on this initial progress toward fixing how they determine home care benefits. Home care services make it possible for thousands of Oregonians with disabilities to live in the community with their loved ones. Our goal is to ensure that those people receive the supports they need.”

Anyone with who has already seen their services reduced will have the prior level of service restored. Anyone with a pending order cutting services will have that order rescinded. Anyone facing an upcoming evaluation may see their services remain the same or increase, but their service level will not drop below its prior level.

The parties will try to find a long-term fix that allows people to remain in their homes and protects their rights to fair notice and due process.

If you are affected by these changes, you do not need to sign up to participate in the lawsuit. These changes will benefit people around the state. If you would like more information, please visit droregon.org to review updates about the case.

About Disability Rights Oregon

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) has served as Oregon’s Protection & Advocacy System for 40 years, upholding the legal rights of people with disabilities. A statewide non-profit organization based in Portland, DRO’s mission is to promote and defend the rights of individuals with disabilities, including the rights of people with disabilities in jails and prisons. The organization envisions a society in which

persons with disabilities have equality of opportunity, full participation and the ability to exercise meaningful choice.

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