

Niagara County

Parent Rights in the Early Intervention Program

Permission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ You have the right to say yes or no to participating the Early Intervention Program. ➤ You have the right to say yes or no to any of the services offered through EI. If you do not want a specific service, you can say no to that service and still get other services you agree to.
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ You have the right to say yes or no to having your child screened or evaluated.
Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ You have the right to choose who evaluates your child (the evaluator). ➤ You have the right to choose your ongoing service coordinator (OSC) at your child's individualized family service plan meeting.
Privacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ You have the right to keep information about your child and family private. ➤ You must give written permission before we send information to people or agencies who do not work in EI.
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ You have the right to take part in-and invite others to-all meetings where decisions will be made about your child's evaluations or services
Your Child's Records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ You have the right to look at (review) any record about your child. ➤ You have the right to receive a copy of these records. ➤ You have the right to ask for a change in any records. ➤ You have the right to ask what materials are being collected and kept in your child's record.
Written Notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ You will receive written notice before a change to your child's evaluation, eligibility or services is made.
Due Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ You have the right to use due process procedures to settle complaints, or disagreements with the Early Intervention Official (EIO); you have the right to use mediation, impartial hearing or both. This is at no cost to you.

If you have questions or do not agree with a decision:

- 1. Speak with your service coordinator. They will be able to help you with most questions.**
- 2. Speak to the Niagara County Early Intervention Official, call (716)439-7463 or (716)278-1991.**
- 3. If the problem is not resolved, or you still disagree with a decision, you have the right to ask for the decision to be reconsidered. This is called due process.**

Your due process rights include:

- **Mediation:** This is a way to discuss your concerns with the EIO and a mediator (someone not involved in the situation who can help you find a solution).
- **Impartial Hearing:** This is a formal process where an administrative law judge listens to the concerns and makes a decision.
- **Systems Complaint:** This is when you ask the New York State Department of Health to investigate a problem.

For an impartial hearing or systems complaint, write to:

New York State Department of Health

Bureau of Early Intervention

Corning Tower, Room 278

Albany, NY 12237

Phone: 518-473-7016

Email: bei@health.ny.gov

These family rights are guaranteed to all families of children in Early Intervention in accordance with Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). For more information go to: <https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/0532.pdf>