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## **Information about assessments Assessment committee**

**More information is available from the  
Ministry of Social Affairs and Social  
Services website and from the social worker  
who deals with you in the department of  
social services in your place of residence**



State of Israel  
The Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services  
Division of Services for People with Intellectual and  
Developmental Disabilities



Hello

This is a newsletter about assessing the presence of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

A member of your family is a candidate for an assessment committee of the Division of Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Naturally, you want to know: what is the significance of the assessment committee? What does the process involve? What is the significance of the decision?

**You probably have more questions. In this newsletter, we will try and answer some of them:**

**The basis for this step:** is the Welfare Law (Treatment of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) 5729 – 1969. The aim of the law, over and above formal recognition of the existence of intellectual and developmental disabilities, is to ensure that the person receives suitable methods of care.

**1** The process begins with the social worker in the Department of Social Services in your place of residence: including a conversation with you, which constitutes the basis for the social welfare report, gathering of all the relevant material, medical opinions, educational and/or occupational reports, documents from a child development center (if any), and a psychiatric opinion (if necessary), etc. All these are vital and required by those contributing to the assessment in order to arrive at a correct assessment.

The social worker in the Department of Social Services in your place of residence is the one who coordinates the dealings with you.

All the material gathered by the social worker is transferred to the District Office of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services (to the inspector/social worker for protective services sanctioned by law). If the social worker for protective services sanctioned by law is of the impression that there are reasonable grounds for intellectual and developmental disabilities, the material is referred to an assessment center or only to a committee (depending on the materials and the need) as near as possible to the place of residence of the person being assessed.

**2** What is an assessment: an assessment is a multidimensional process that examines the individual's intellectual functioning, adaptive behavior, strengths and difficulties, desires and needs, physical and mental health, family background and environment, and the support that the assessed individual needs.

It is very important that your family member undergo a comprehensive assessment before appearing before the assessment committee.

**3** Assessment center: the moment the material arrives at the assessment center, a representative of the assessment center will contact you to arrange dates and times for the necessary tests, mostly consisting of medical, functional and psychological tests, as well as a psychiatric test, if necessary. The assessment process may consist of one to several meetings. The duration of the assessment depends on the case in question, and takes the family's requests into consideration. At the end of the assessment process, a meeting is held of all the members of the assessment team, following which the material is transferred to the assessment committee.

**Assessment committee:** the committee operates by virtue of the law, and only it has the legal authority to establish an assessment of intellectual and developmental disabilities and the methods of care. Therefore, the committee

will decide whether an individual has intellectual and developmental disabilities. If it decides that this is the case, the committee will define the appropriate methods of care.

**4** The committee is composed of five professionals: a social worker for protective services sanctioned by law, psychologist, educator, physician and psychiatrist. In order to reach a decision, the committee meets with the individual being assessed, with the person responsible for that individual, with those providing the individual with care, and with any other relevant parties, as it deems fit. In most cases, the committee will convene at the same place that the assessment tests were conducted. Nevertheless, it must be emphasized that an assessment committee and an assessment center are separate entities.

The committee's decisions: the committee's decisions are given verbally to the invited persons, following which a summary of the assessment committee meeting is sent to the responsible parties, to the social worker handling the case, to the social worker for protective services sanctioned by law/ inspector and to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services. If an assessment is conducted at an assessment center prior to the assessment committee, you will also receive a copy of the assessment.

**5** Appeal: you can appeal decisions of the assessment committee by filing an appeal with an appeals committee within 45 days of receipt of the committee meeting summary. Appeals committees are located at the magistrates' courts in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa. The appeal must be sent to the relevant magistrates court, addressed to the appeals committee chairperson, and must specify on the envelope that the appeal is in accordance with the Welfare Law (Treatment of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) 5729 – 1969.

It must be emphasized that the whole process from the time you contact the Department of Social Services until the end of the assessment committee takes several months, and even as long as six months. Your cooperation is essential in order to reach the right decisions in each of the stages, and we hope that the decisions taken at the end of the process will enable your member of family to receive the services best suited to him/her. Today we know that with suitable care, support, and assistance, people with intellectual and mental disabilities can advance and improve their functioning in all areas of life.

