

Philadelphia Intellectual disAbility Services Infant Toddler Early Intervention

Parents Request for Independent Evaluation

Policy

The Multidisciplinary Evaluation (MDE) is the process used in determining a child's eligibility for early intervention services. All evaluations must be conducted by qualified persons. In Philadelphia there are agencies designated to complete the initial MDE for children entering the system. At the child's annual evaluation, their ongoing service delivery team will conduct the MDE and determine the child's eligibility. When a parent/guardian disputes the outcome of an evaluation, they may request another evaluation conducted by another (independent) team at no cost to the parent.

Procedures

- When a parent is not in agreement with the results of an initial or annual MDE the parent can request another MDE by informing their Service Coordinator. The SC will share the Parent's Rights Agreement (PRA) with the parent and ask the parent to check off that they request another meeting and indicate the reason for the meeting.
- The Service Coordinator informs their Supervisor of the family's request for another MDE.
- When there is an annual MDE that is in dispute, one of the Initial MDE provider agencies will be asked to conduct the MDE.
- When there is an initial MDE that the parent disputes, one of the other initial MDE evaluation agencies will be asked to administer the MDE.
- If the family requests an independent evaluation conducted by a provider who does not currently contract with Philadelphia County, Service Coordination will notify the County of the family's request.
- The County will arrange and pay for an independent evaluation or will initiate a hearing to show that its evaluation (or evaluators) is (are) appropriate.
- If a hearing officer upholds the parent's request for an evaluation conducted by a provider not contracting with Philadelphia County, the County will assume the cost of the evaluation.

- If the independent evaluation meets all of the County's criteria, the outcome from the evaluation will be used to determine eligibility and to create the child's IFSP (if eligible for EI).