

Public Authority Care Communications







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Provider Pay Rate Increase

On June 3, 2025, the San Joaquin County IHSS Public Authority Governing Board approved an agreement with Service Employees International Union Local 2015. The agreement included a pay increase of \$1.57 per hour, raising the provider pay to \$18.57 per hour after approval from the California Department of Social Services. This approval is expected to be effective for hours worked beginning September 1, 2025. This is an increase of the existing pay supplement of 50 cents, meaning provider pay in San Joaquin County will be \$2.07 above the California minimum wage. The agreement includes an increase in the benefits hourly rate from 70 cents per IHSS & WPCS hour to 90 cents per hour. This may help reduce the wait time for IHSS providers opting to receive health benefits through their IHSS work.

Elder Abuse Prevention

"Elder" means any person residing in California age 65 and over.

"Dependent Adult" means any person residing in California age 18 through 64 who has physical or mental limitations which restrict her/his ability to carry out normal activities or protect her/his rights including, but not limited to, persons who have physical or developmental disabilities or whose physical or mental abilities have diminished because of age.

To report elder and/or dependent adult abuse and/or neglect contact APS at 209-468-3780 or 1-888-800-4800.

Definitions Related to Abuse

All definitions apply to both elder and dependent adults.

- 1. Abuse can mean physical, mental, sexual, fiduciary (financial) and self neglect.
- 2. Abandonment: Desertion or willful forsaking of an elder or dependent adult by anyone having care or custody under circumstances in which a reasonable person would continue to provide care and custody.
- 3. Fiduciary Abuse: A situation in which anyone who has care or custody or is in a position of trust with a suspected victim, takes, conceals, or appropriates money or property, to any use or purpose not in the due and lawful execution of his/her trust.

- 4. Mental Suffering: Deliberately subjecting a person to fear, agitation, confusion, severe depression, or other forms of serious emotional distress through threats, harassment, or other forms of intimidating behavior.
- 5. Neglect: Negligent failure of any person having the care or custody of an elder or a dependent adult to exercise a reasonable personal degree of care; includes failure to:
 - a. Assist in personal hygiene, or in provision of food, clothing or shelter;
 - b. Provide medical care for physical and mental health needs (except that a person who voluntarily relies on treatment by spiritual means through

6. Physical Abuse:

- a. Assault- an unlawful attempt to commit a violent injury on another (P.C. 240)
- b. Battery- a willful and unlawful use of force upon another (P.C. 242)
- c. Assault with a deadly weapon or force likely to produce great bodily injury (P.C. 245)
- d. Unreasonable physical constraint, or prolonged or continual deprivation of food or water.
- 7. Sexual Assault, which means any of the following:
 - a. Sexual battery- touching an intimate part of a person who is institutionalized or unlawfully re strained, against that person's will, for purposes of sexual arousal (P.C. 243.4)
 - b. Rape (P.C. 261 and 264.1)
 - c. Incest (P.C. 285)
 - d. Sodomy (P.C. 286)
 - e. Oral Copulation (P.C. 288a)
 - f. Penetration with foreign object (P.C. 289)
- 8. Use of physical or chemical restraint, medication, or isolation without authorization, or for a purpose other than for which it was ordered, including, but not limited to, for staff convenience, for punishment, or for a period beyond that for which it was ordered.
- Self-Neglect/Abuse:
 - a. Physical
 - b. Suicidal
 - c. Fiduciary
 - d. Other

Fraud Prevention

Fraud is when a provider knowingly makes, or causes to be made, any false or fraudulent claim for payment. Fraud is an intentional deception or misrepresentation made with the knowledge that the deception could result in an unauthorized benefit.

In-Home Supportive Services is a Medi-Cal program funded by federal, state, and county funds. Any false statement, claim, or concealment of information may be prosecuted under federal and state law. Some examples of fraudulent behaviors include but are not limited to:

- Knowingly submitting timesheets for hours not actually worked.
- Provider claiming hours for providing services that are not authorized by IHSS.
- Provider claiming hours for providing services when the recipient is hospitalized, on vacation, or otherwise not at home.
- Provider/recipient conspiring together to receive payment for services neither are eligible to receive.
- Forgery of signatures on the timesheet.
- Recipient signing blank timesheet.
- Provider or recipient misrepresents or exaggerates the level of need for IHSS.
- Provider falsely reports on-the-job injuries in an effort to collect Workers' Compensation benefits.
- Sub-Contracting (Submitting a timesheet as a provider, indicating YOU worked hours that you had not, then using those funds to pay a provider not enrolled to serve the recipient.)

San Joaquin County actively investigates fraudulent activity. If you are convicted of fraud, you will not be able to be a paid care provider for 10 years.

Staff Contact Information

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