

HOW TO OBTAIN AN AB3632 EVALUATION FOR YOUR CHILD

AB3632 services are mental health services provided through local county mental health departments and medically necessary physical and occupational therapy services provided through the local arm of the California Children's Services Department. **These services are available to special education students who need the services to help them benefit from their special education program.** Many school districts contract directly for physical and occupational therapy services so the discussion here will focus on using the AB3632 referral process to obtain mental health services. If your child has qualified for special education services and you think he/she might benefit from AB3632 services, you can proceed in the following ways.

The school district or the school psychologist, not the parent, must make the referral for AB3632 services. If you think your child might qualify for services, you can proceed in either of these two ways:

1. Request the referral at the IEP meeting and have it written into the IEP. This is a good technique because it allows for documentation of the request in the same plan that includes the child's other services and it provides a clear record of the date the request was made. The school district does the referral as a result of the IEP meeting.
2. Write a letter requesting the school district to make the referral and deliver it to the school psychologist or appropriate school special education personnel. Keep a dated copy of this request.

Before the district can proceed with this referral, you must sign a written consent that authorizes 1) the district to forward documents and information about your child to the county mental health department; and 2) county mental health professionals to observe your child in educational and other appropriate settings.

Once you have signed the parent consent, county mental health has 15 days to create an assessment plan. You must also sign the assessment plan before county mental health can proceed. Once the assessment plan is signed, the county has 60 days to complete the assessment and return with its conclusion to an IEP meeting.

If county mental health determines that the child qualifies for AB3632 services, the nature of the services to be provided will be written on the IEP. Then, at each annual meeting a representative from county mental health is required to attend the IEP meeting.

A variety of services can be obtained through an AB3632 referral. These include individual, group and family psychotherapy, day treatment services and evaluation for monitoring of psychotropic medication. If a child qualifies for special education as emotionally disturbed, the child may also be eligible for residential treatment placement or in-home support services through this type of referral.