

SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

**INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE
APPEAL HANDBOOK**

Board Regulation – BR 5110

Adopted SMCBE 11/10/76

Revised SMCBE 2/20/80, 4/7/82, 4/5/95, 9/6/06, 5/7/08, 11/05/08, 06/17/09, 9/2/09

**TO ASSIST PARENTS, GUARDIANS, STUDENTS
AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN UNDERSTANDING
THE INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE
APPEAL PROCESS**

SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE APPEAL
HANDBOOK

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Appeal of Denial of Interdistrict Attendance

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INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE APPEAL HANDBOOK

I. Introduction

The San Mateo County Board of Education has prepared this Handbook to provide direction and information to pupils and/or their parents/guardians who wish to appeal a school district's decision not to grant an interdistrict attendance agreement, and to school districts.

This Handbook constitutes the official procedures adopted by the San Mateo County Board of Education for conducting interdistrict attendance appeals.

The San Mateo County Board of Education is committed to an objective review and consideration of appeals for pupils denied interdistrict attendance agreements from local school districts.

The laws on interdistrict attendance computation, interdistrict attendance agreements, and interdistrict attendance appeals found in the *California Education Code, Sections 46600-46611*, as well as the local school district's policies and administrative regulations for interdistrict attendance, also apply in these appeals. Pupils and/or their parents/guardians have the right to review pupil records at the school district, and the right to consult with and engage the services of an advocate or an attorney at their own expense.

II. What Is the Purpose of an Appeal?

The County Board of Education has legal authority to review the procedures and reasoning followed by the school district(s) after the school district(s) have rejected or failed to rule on a pupil's interdistrict attendance request. The County Board of Education will determine whether to grant or deny an interdistrict attendance agreement after reviewing the relevant facts from the pupil, parent/guardian, and local school district(s) involved.

Limitations on County Board Authority

There are limitations on the types of appeals the County Board of Education can hear. For example, the County Board has ***no authority*** to consider the following interdistrict attendance appeals or issues:

1. To determine the specific school within the school district where the pupil will be enrolled. This authority is reserved for the school district of attendance, after the County Board has made its final decision;
2. Denial of an interdistrict transfer request by a pupil under consideration for expulsion or who has been expelled [Education Code Section 46601(e)];
3. Denial of an intradistrict transfer between schools within the same district [Education Code Section 35160.5(b)];
4. A dispute over the nature of the placement of a special education pupil or the services provided to a special education pupil pursuant to state and federal laws and regulations governing the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process. Such a dispute should be handled by the district of residence through special education procedures [Education Code Section 56505; 20 U.S. Code Section 1415(f)]; or
5. A determination by a school district regarding the validity of a caregiver affidavit [Education Code Section 48204(d) or 48204(a)(4), and Family Code Section 6550, *et seq.*].

III. County Board Authority in Appeals Involving Two Counties

If the interdistrict attendance involves school districts located in different counties, the appeal will be heard by the County Board of Education for the district denying an agreement or refusing or failing to enter into an agreement. If districts in different counties deny an agreement, or refuse or fail to enter into an agreement, the County Board of Education for the district of residence shall hear the appeal. If the appeal is granted, the County Board for the other district will be asked to agree. If the two County Boards do not then agree, the pupil's appeal shall be denied.

IV. What Are the Actions the County Board of Education May Take?

The County Board of Education's review of the appeal may result in:

1. Granting the interdistrict attendance appeal and enrolling the pupil in the new school district;
2. Denying the appeal and ordering the pupil returned to the school district of residence; or
3. In rare cases, returning the case to the local school district(s) for further consideration of new evidence or new grounds for the request for interdistrict attendance.

V. When May an Appeal Be Filed?

In general, you must request an appeal hearing within thirty (30) calendar days of when your interdistrict attendance request was denied by the school district. However, sometimes the school district does not respond to your request in a timely manner or simply fails to respond at all. Listed below are three different situations and a description of when the thirty (30) calendar day timeline starts.

District Denies Request

1. In most situations, a school district will act on your interdistrict attendance request either orally or in writing. You must file your appeal with the County Board of Education within thirty (30) calendar days from the date that your request was rejected by either the school district of residence or the school district of requested attendance, or both.

District Fails to Act on Request for Next School Year

2. If you have asked for an interdistrict attendance agreement for the next school year and the school district(s) fail to respond to your request, you must wait at least thirty (30) calendar days from the date of your request to see if you get a response from either of the school districts. You must also wait fourteen (14) calendar days after both school districts' academic school year begins before the 30-calendar day filing period begins. An academic school year starts on the first day of classes in the school district.

Example: If you filed an interdistrict attendance request on July 1 and you did not hear anything from the school district(s) by July 31, you must still wait fourteen (14) calendar days into the academic year before you can file an appeal with the County Board of Education. If the academic year for both districts begins on August 15, you must file your appeal after August 29 (14 day requirement) and before September 28 (30 day requirement).

District Fails to Act on Request Filed During the School Term:

3. If you have asked for an interdistrict attendance agreement for the current school year and the school district(s) fail to respond to your request, you must wait thirty (30) calendar days from the date of your request to see if you get a response from the school district(s). If you do not get a response during that time, you have thirty (30) more days to file an appeal with the County Board of Education.

Example: If you filed an interdistrict attendance request on September 1 and you did not hear anything from the school districts by October 1, you have until October 31 to file your appeal with the County Board of Education. You could not, however, file your appeal on September 15 (too soon) or November 15 (too late).

NOTE: *Before you file your appeal, you must check the policies of the local school districts to see if there is any type of internal appeal procedure (e.g., decision by the district superintendent may be appealed to the district school board). If there is an internal appeal procedure, you must use that procedure before you file an appeal with the County Board of Education. In that case, your 30-day time period for filing an appeal does not begin until the final decision is made by the district or its governing board. If a student is under an expulsion order, you may not appeal the denial of the requested district [Education Code Section 46601(e)].*

VI. How Does a Person Request an Interdistrict Appeal Hearing?

The appeal process begins with completing and filing a written form called: “Appeal of Denial of Interdistrict Attendance.” This form is included in the Handbook. You may deliver the form in person or by placing it in the mail to the following address:

Administrator
Child, Youth and Family Services
San Mateo County Office of Education
101 Twin Dolphin Drive
Redwood City CA 94065
Telephone: (650) 802-5314
Fax: (650) 802-5322

This form must be completed, signed, and returned within the applicable time limits (refer to pages 3 and 4). *Please complete all sections of the form legibly.*

Please read the entire Handbook before completing the form. We especially recommend that you read the section “Facts the County Board Will Consider” that begins on page 8 of this Handbook before completing the section of the form entitled, “Reason for Request for Appeal.”

Your completed appeal form should be accompanied by: (1) a copy of your original request for an interdistrict transfer; (2) any letters from your district of residence regarding your request; (3) any letters from the denying district regarding your request; and (4) any other supporting documentation you want the County Board to consider.

The Board will accept a date-stamped copy of your request for an interdistrict transfer filed with the district as evidence that you have complied with district procedures in the event that the district fails to act on your original request (see pages 3 and 4).

The reason(s) for your appeal must be the same as those stated on your original request for an interdistrict transfer. If the reasons on the appeal are substantially different, you may be asked to reapply for an interdistrict transfer with your district of residence.

If you have any questions about completing the form, you may contact Dr. Sylvia Key at the San Mateo County Office of Education at (650) 802-5314.

The effective date of the appeal is the date on which the completed and signed appeal document is received by the County Superintendent of Schools.

VII. What If the Appeal Is Late?

Failure to appeal within the required time will result in denial of your appeal unless you can show “good cause for the late appeal.” The explanation of “good cause” must be filed with the appeal. An example of “good cause” would be where the parent’s appeal is mailed timely, but the parent proves that the document was lost by the U.S. Mail.

VIII. How Is a Request for an Interdistrict Appeal Hearing Processed?

County Superintendent’s Designee Will Verify Information

After receiving your appeal request, the County Superintendent’s office will review it and seek to verify certain information before a hearing date is scheduled. The County Superintendent’s office will verify whether the pupil is subject to expulsion. A parent cannot appeal the denial of an interdistrict attendance agreement if the pupil is being considered for expulsion or is currently serving an expulsion term [Education Code Section 46601(e)].

The County Superintendent’s office will also check to see if you have exhausted any appeal processes in the local school districts. If you have not used all of the local appeal options, you will be asked to complete the local appeal process before going forward with your request for an interdistrict appeal hearing before the County Board of Education.

The County Superintendent’s office will review the case to determine that all timelines have been honored prior to setting a hearing. Misinformation and/or falsification of information may cause rejection of an appeal.

Setting a Hearing Date

If the written appeal is complete and appropriate, the County Superintendent will place the matter on the County Board of Education’s agenda for a regular or special meeting to be held no later than thirty (30) calendar days following the effective date of the appeal. The County Board may extend this thirty (30) day period an additional five (5) calendar days for good cause [Education Code Section 46601(b)(1)]. The County Superintendent, or designee, has discretion to approve a request for postponement filed by you or by the school district for good cause

provided the request is filed in writing at least five (5) calendar days prior to the hearing date, except in an emergency. A postponement by a party extends the timeline for the County Board of Education to make a decision by no more than 21 days.

Notification of Hearing Date

The County Superintendent's office will notify you and the resident district and the desired district of the date, time, and place of the appeal hearing. Normally, the notice will be sent at least fifteen (15) calendar days before the date of the hearing. If the circumstances dictate notice of fewer than fifteen (15) calendar days, the timelines for written statement will also be adjusted.

Other Issues

After you have filed your appeal, you may also be contacted by the County Superintendent's office for the following reasons:

1. To explain your rights and the procedures for your case.
2. To request that you make certain documents available to assist the County Board of Education in making its determination.

IX. Preparing for the Interdistrict Appeal Hearing

Filing a Written Statement Is Important

The County Board recommends that the parent/guardian or a representative file a pre-hearing written statement with the County Board of Education (please submit a typewritten statement if at all possible). Any written statement must be filed *at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the date set for the hearing before the County Board of Education*. Send or deliver copies of the statement to the school district of residence *and* the school district of requested attendance when you file your written statement with the County Board of Education. You may employ an attorney or other advocate, at your expense, to prepare your written statement for the hearing. (See Resource List in Appendices.)

District Written Response

Both the district of residence and the district of desired attendance may each submit a written response statement. The school districts' statements must be filed *at least ten (10) calendar days* prior to the hearing date. The school districts shall deliver a copy to the parent and the other district no later than the date upon which the statement was filed with the County Board of Education.

Attach Documentation to Your Written Statement

Adequate documentation is helpful when presenting your case. You will find that evidence is most effective when it is provided in writing, related to the issue(s) at hand and is the type of evidence upon which reasonable persons can rely in the conduct of serious affairs. If your

written statement makes reference to documents, even documents previously submitted with your appeal, they should be attached to the written statement.

Some examples of documentary evidence include:

1. A copy of your original request for an interdistrict attendance permit or agreement and any written denial(s).
2. Documents to support your request for an interdistrict transfer. For example, when you review the factors that the County Board will consider, you will see that certain documents may support your position. Those documents could be professional recommendations by doctors, educators, psychologists, or others. Verification of participation or non-availability of childcare providers, transportation providers, teachers, or others could be helpful. Brochures or written information about special programs in the school district or community of requested attendance may be supportive evidence.

Privacy of Documents Provided

There are numerous laws that protect the release of confidential records. For example, there are certain laws regarding the privacy and confidentiality of pupil records. [See Education Code Section 49060, *et seq.*] There are also laws regarding the confidentiality of juvenile court records and medical records. If you wish to have the County Board consider material from confidential records, you may wish to consult legal counsel regarding such documents.

Multiple Appeals

Families with multiple appeals may have the appeals heard separately or as one. If you have all the appeals heard as one, there will still be a separate vote on each child, but only one written decision from the County Board of Education.

Legal Advocate at the Hearing

Although the hearing is informal, you may bring legal counsel or a legal advocate. The use of any legal counsel will be at your expense.

A Brief Verbal Presentation

The County Board of Education will primarily rely on the written information that you and the school districts provide before the hearing. However, you should be prepared to respond to any questions the County Board may have during the hearing. You will also be given an opportunity to make a brief oral presentation focusing on the factors you believe are relevant under the Board's policy for deciding interdistrict transfer appeals. If relevant to your case, you may also bring a witness or witnesses to make a statement on behalf of the pupil. Please make sure any witnesses are prepared to make a brief presentation and that the information they provide relates to the factors considered by the Board under its policy.

X. What Facts Will the County Board Consider?

In its discussion and deliberations on your appeal, the County Board of Education will consider the conditions of, and your reasons for, your request for a transfer.

In deciding whether to grant or deny an appeal, the County Board weighs the facts that support the criteria favoring a transfer against the adverse impacts presented by the school district(s). If you are unable to present sufficient evidence to justify a transfer, the County Board may rule against the appeal request without considering the school district's evidence of an adverse impact.

If you are able to submit sufficient evidence to justify a transfer, the school district will have an opportunity to rebut the evidence and submit evidence of adverse impact(s). You then have an opportunity to respond, including offering evidence as to how some or all of the adverse impacts on the school district(s) could be alleviated.

Misinformation and/or falsification of information provided by either party shall be good cause for deciding against that party.

A. Factors Which Support Granting an Appeal:

- (1) **The pupil's desire to remain in his/her school of current attendance for the balance of the semester or school year despite his/her or parent's change of residence.** The pupil's desire may be based on his or her anticipated graduation from the school of current attendance at the end of the semester or school year, or on a need for educational continuity for the remainder of the semester or school year.
- (2) **The pupil's plan to move in the near future and desire to begin the semester or school year in his or her new school district.** The pupil and his or her parent or guardian must offer written proof of their plan to move into the district of proposed attendance. Such written proof may be a rental agreement, a contract to purchase new property, or a similar document.
- (3) **The acceptance of a sibling of the pupil for attendance for the current school year by the district of requested attendance when requiring the pupils to attend different districts would cause a hardship on the family.** The pupil and/or parent must submit written documentation of the sibling's enrollment and demonstrate a hardship based upon childcare needs, transportation issues, employment location, or other significant factors.
- (4) **The pupil's psychological or physical well-being will be seriously adversely impacted by remaining in the district of residence.** Problems with a pupil's psychological or physical well-being must be supported by the written statement of a qualified medical or behavioral professional having a professional relationship with the pupil.
- (5) **A substantial danger to the pupil's health or safety exists by remaining in the district of residence.** A danger to the pupil's health or safety must be

supported by the written statement of a qualified health expert, by police reports, by school records, or by other documentation. Substantial danger based upon transportation issues may be included under this criteria.

- (6) **A specialized and specific district academic program or service in grades 7-12 is unavailable in the district of residence, and is critical to the educational well-being of the pupil, because of special circumstances.** An academic program is defined as a series of classes in a single subject or in related subjects extending over more than one (1) year in grades 7-12.
- (7) **A need to change the pupil's social environment, as recommended by juvenile authorities, such as School Attendance Review Board, county child welfare, and/or social service agency staff.** You must provide written documentation from a social services agency/staff or a law enforcement agency/staff that, due to documented cases of serious home or community issues, it is inadvisable for the pupil to remain in the school district of residence.
- (8) **A severe and demonstrated hardship, in terms of time and/or costs to the person having physical custody, will result if the pupil is required to attend the district of residence.** You should provide any relevant evidence to support your position.
- (9) **A severe and demonstrated hardship in obtaining before-school and/or after-school supervision of the pupil would result if the pupil is required to attend the district of residence.** You should provide any relevant evidence to support your position. Your written, signed statement attesting to the efforts you have made to obtain suitable supervision should be included in the evidence.
- (10) **Other exceptional or extraordinary circumstances which would weigh heavily in favor of the pupil.** For example, has the district followed its own policy? You must specify and describe the type of exceptional or extraordinary circumstance and its effect on the pupil, and provide any relevant evidence to support your position.

B. Adverse Impacts Upon District

The County Board, in its discretion, may determine that evidence provided by the affected district(s) to justify one of the adverse impacts listed below outweighs facts supporting one or more of the above criteria justifying granting the appeal.

- (1) **The negative financial impact of granting the transfer.** The impacted district(s) must provide specific written documentation and supporting evidence and detail that the pupil's transfer would place an undue hardship on the district's operations and/or resident pupils in terms of costs, reduced services or other unacceptable outcomes. A written statement, signed by the Superintendent, attesting that he or she has reviewed and verified the accuracy of the factual information submitted, should be included in the evidence.
- (2) **The pupil's demonstrated failure to meet reasonable standards relating to behavior, attendance, or diligence to studies.** Demonstration of such failure

by the district of proposed attendance must be based on a written explanation of the district's previous experience with the pupil under an interdistrict attendance agreement or on other documented evidence of behavior or attendance in the prior district of attendance.

- (3) **Overcrowding/lack of space for the pupil in the receiving district.** The district of proposed attendance must demonstrate in writing that the pupil's transfer would result in an undue hardship on the district's resident pupils in terms of overcrowding or priority for enrollment in a specific program and/or would be a violation of law, district policy, or a collective bargaining agreement regarding class sizes or facilities use.
- (4) **Other exceptional or extraordinary circumstances which would weigh heavily in favor of the affected school district.** The school district must specify and describe the type of exceptional or extraordinary circumstance.

XI. Conducting the Appeal Hearing

Hearings are conducted in closed session during regular or special San Mateo County Board of Education meetings held at the:

**SAN MATEO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
101 Twin Dolphin Drive
Board Rooms A&B
Redwood City CA 94065**

It is the intent of the County Board of Education to conduct the hearing in a fair and sufficiently informal manner to encourage open communication and understanding of the system. The hearing will also be conducted in such a manner that no special legal expertise is necessary and so that all parties have the opportunity to present their case fairly and completely. The law provides that you may have legal counsel or an advocate present if you wish. A record of the hearing will be made.

During your appeal hearing, you, the pupil (optional), and the representatives of the districts, will take seats at a table in front of the County Board.

The hearing is conducted as follows:

The Board will consider the appeal in closed session, unless the parent or guardian requests in writing that it be in open session. The President of the Board shall conduct the proceedings, which generally will include the following steps:

1. Introduction of all interested parties.
2. The parent or guardian, or the pupil, and/or representative of the pupil, will present their case.
3. The district of residence will be given an opportunity to describe the action taken by that district and the reasons therefore.

4. The district of desired attendance will be given an opportunity to describe the action taken by that district, if any, and the reasons therefore.
5. Members of the Board may question any of the parties to the hearing, and the staff, and consult with legal counsel, if necessary.
6. When the President deems that all parties have completed their presentations, the President shall call for a motion and the Board shall make its decision. Any motion shall require four affirmative votes for passage.

XII. What Happens at the Conclusion of the Appeal Hearing?

Following action by the County Board, a written decision incorporating the County Board's rationale will be mailed to all parties. The County Board's decision is final, and there is no process for administrative reconsideration or appeal.

If the County Board determines that the interdistrict attendance appeal should be approved, the pupil will be admitted to the school district of requested attendance without delay [Education Code Section 46602]. The County Board may order attendance in a district, but not in a specific school.

**APPENDICES TO THE
INTERDISTRICT APPEAL HANDBOOK**

Board Policy 5110 Interdistrict Attendance Appeals

Appeal of Denial of Interdistrict Attendance

Resource List: Free or Low-Cost Legal Services in San Mateo County

San Mateo County Board of Education Policy

Students

BP 5110

Interdistrict Attendance Appeals

Pursuant to Education Code Section 46601 *et seq.*, the San Mateo County Board of Education shall hear and resolve interdistrict attendance appeals.

Disposition of interdistrict attendance appeals shall be based on the following rebuttable presumptions:

1. That a pupil is normally required to attend school in the district of residence of either the parent or legal guardian.
2. That a request for attendance in a district other than the district of residence, whenever possible, should be resolved by the governing boards of the two districts involved.

The County Board is given authority by law to adopt rules and regulations establishing procedures for interdistrict attendance appeals. In an effort to make such legal procedures understandable to parents, guardians, students and school districts, the County Board has reviewed and adopted the contents of the “Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Handbook” dated 05/07/08. The Handbook is established as a board regulation to govern interdistrict attendance appeals filed with the County Board.

The County Board has established limits on the types of appeals it will consider regarding interdistrict attendance agreements. These limitations are set forth in detail in Board Regulation 5110: Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Handbook.

Although the law allows total discretion by the County Board to determine whether to grant or deny an interdistrict attendance agreement on appeal, the County Board has adopted certain criteria to guide its decision. The County Board believes that it is the responsibility of the person filing the appeal to provide facts that meet one or more of the criteria. Even if the parent/guardian submits such facts, the County Board may also consider any adverse impacts to the school district(s) in question and balance the competing factors. The criteria to be considered by the County Board are set forth in the Handbook.

Legal References:

Education Code 46601-46604 Interdistrict Attendance Computation

Education Code 48204 Residency requirements for school attendance

Adopted 11/10/76; Revised 01/20/82, 10/02/85, 08/21/91, 04/05/95, 09/06/06, 05/07/08

APPEAL OF DENIAL OF INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE

(Please print or type all material except signature)

In accordance with Education Code Section 46601, and the San Mateo County Board of Education Policy, BP 5110, we hereby request a hearing for the purpose of an Appeal of an Interdistrict Transfer Denial. [NOTE: this request for Appeal shall be communicated to the County Board of Education within thirty (30) calendar days following the date of denial of request for interdistrict transfer or failure of the district to enter into an agreement.]

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Date: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian (Appellant): _____

Address of Residence: _____

How long at this address? _____ Resident School District _____

Residence Telephone: _____ Business Telephone: _____

E-mail _____

Attorney or Representative (If Applicable): _____ Telephone: _____

I am/we are requesting that the San Mateo County Board of Education hear an appeal of the denial by _____ School District of an interdistrict attendance transfer request for my/our son(s)/daughter(s) to attend school in the _____ School District.

Student: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____ Current School: _____

Student: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____ Current School: _____

1. Date of Denial or Failure to Issue Interdistrict Transfer Permit: _____

2. How many other children in the home? _____ Give ages: _____

3. Do they attend school in the resident school district? Yes: _____ No: _____

4. If the answer is "no" to the question above, please explain: _____

5. Is this the first year an interdistrict attendance agreement has been requested from the district for this student? Yes: _____ No: _____

6. If an interdistrict attendance agreement was approved in prior years for the pupil(s), please indicate the first year the agreement was granted: _____ (school year, e.g., 2006-2007)

7. Pupil's grade level during the first year agreement was granted: _____

8. Reason parent requested interdistrict attendance the first year the agreement was approved:

9. Has parent been required to submit a new interdistrict attendance request each year since the first year? Yes: _____ No: _____

10. If the current request is for reasons related to childcare located within the requested district:

A. Does the pupil still receive childcare services within the boundaries of the requested district? Yes: _____ If answering “yes,” please provide the name, address and telephone number of the childcare service provider:

Name/Address: _____ Telephone: _____

B. If not, when was the last year the child received childcare services within the boundaries of the requested district? _____ (year)

11. Does the pupil have any brothers or sisters who are attending school in the requested district under an interdistrict agreement? Yes: _____ No: _____

12. Explain parent’s understanding of the reason(s) for denial of permit: (please attach a copy of the notice of denial from the district

13. Reason for Request for Appeal [Note: The request for appeal ***will not be accepted*** without a complete statement of reasons. See Section A, pages 8 – 9 of the Appeal Handbook “Factors Which Support Granting an Appeal.” Please reference, by number, the factors (1-10) that pertain to your situation. Attach additional pages if more space is needed to complete this item .]

The County Board of Education may grant a transfer to a district, but has ***no authority*** to determine which school the pupil would attend. **If the County Board grants a transfer to a district, then the district makes the decision about which school the pupil will attend.**

I hereby certify that: 1) I understand the limitation of the County Board's authority as stated above; and 2) all the information I have provided in this form and the attached documents is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Parent/Guardian Filing Appeal

Date

Please attach the following items to this “Appeal of Denial of Interdistrict Attendance”:

- (1) any additional pages submitted with item #13 above, relating to the reasons for the transfer request ;
- (2) any documentation from your district of residence regarding your request;
- (3) any documentation from the denying district regarding your request; and
- (4) any other documentation that you believe is pertinent to your request.

RESOURCE LIST

Free or Low-Cost Legal Services in San Mateo County

Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County

www.legalaidsmc.org

The Natalie Lanam Justice Center

521 East 5th Avenue (at Delaware), San Mateo, CA 94402

Legal Assistance Hotline: (650) 558-0915

(800) 381-8898 (voice)

(650) 558-0786 (TDD)

(650) 558-0673 (fax)

Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto

www.clsepa.org

2117-B University Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA 94303

(650) 326-6440 (main)

(650) 326-9722 (fax)

San Mateo County Bar Association

Lawyer Referral Service

(650) 369-4149, press "3" at the prompt

(Small fee applies for consultation with lawyer.)