[FIDA-IDD PLAN NAME/LOGO]

**Appeal Level:** **1**

**1 2 3 4**

**Appeal Decision Notice**

**Name: Date of Notice:**

**Participant Number:**

[*Insert other identifying information, as necessary (e.g., provider name, Participant’s Medicaid number, service subject to notice, date of service)*]

Dear <Participant name>,

<Plan name> reviewed your appeal, received on <date appeal received, orally or in writing> [*for expedited appeals insert:* at <hour received>], about the following action: [*Insert a detailed description of the FIDA Plan action/IDT decision (e.g. denial, reduction, Life Plan renewal, etc.) being appealed and the benefits involved (provide more detail than the Appeal Acknowledgement letter). Also, include the original rationale for the FIDA-IDD Plan action/IDT decision that is the basis of the Participant’s appeal.*]

**Level 1 Appeal decision**

Your appeal was [*Insert if applicable:* partially] denied on <date of appeal decision>. That means we upheld [*Insert if applicable:* part of] the previous decision made on <date of plan coverage determination or Life Plan update, as applicable>. We [*Insert if applicable:* partially] denied your appeal because: [*Insert specific rationale for the appeal decision, addressing each initial decision and rationale listed above. Include citations or clear references to State or Federal coverage rules and guidelines, FIDA-IDD Program coverage rules, or other clinical guidelines that were used to support the appeal decision. Describe the clinical rationale, if any, and indicate that the Participant, or his/her representative, if applicable, may request the relevant clinical review criteria at no cost to them.*]

[*Insert the following three paragraphs for decisions that are partially favorable to the Participant:*]

However, we decided to approve the following services: [*List the services that were approved, including any applicable information about coverage amount, duration, etc.*]

You are authorized to get these services as of <date authorized (no later than one business day after the FIDA Plan appeal decision date)>. If you do not get the services, or if the services are wrongly stopped or reduced, tell us immediately using the contact information below:

**<Plan name>**

<Name of Appeals/Grievance Department>

<Mailing Address for Appeals/Grievance Department>

Phone: <phone number> TTY: <TTY number>

Fax: <fax number>

You can also contact the **Independent Consumer Advocacy Network (ICAN)** to help you resolve the issue. Call ICAN at 1-844-614-8800. TTY users call 711, then follow the prompts to dial 844-614-8800.

**What this means**

Because our Level 1 Appeal decision is not fully in your favor, the appeal process automatically continues. You will now begin Level 2 of the appeal process, and we are forwarding your case to the **FIDA Integrated Administrative Hearings Office (IAHO)**. The IAHO is an independent organization that is not connected to <plan name>.

You will receive a second notice to confirm that your case was forwarded to the IAHO. Someone from the IAHO will contact you to schedule a hearing about the following disputed services: [*List all services that are still fully or partially disputed after the Level 1 decision.*]

The IAHO will conduct the hearing and make a decision as soon as your condition requires. You have the right to do your hearing over the phone or in-person. If you need reasonable accommodations because of a disability, tell the IAHO and they will provide those accommodations for you. If you are homebound, or if transportation could be harmful to your health, make sure to ask that the hearing is conducted at your home or other residence.

**Continuation of services during your Level 2 Appeal**

[*Insert the following two paragraphs if any of the disputed services are continued:*]

Because you had continuing services during Level 1 of your appeal, the following disputed services will also continue pending the outcome of Level 2: [*List the disputed services that qualify for continuation of benefits.*]

If these services are stopped before the IAHO makes a decision, contact us at <phone number> or the **Independent Consumer Advocacy Network (ICAN)** at 1-844-614-8800. TTY users call 711, then follow the prompts to dial 844-614-8800. If the IAHO upholds our decision, you will not have to pay for any continued services.

[*Insert the following paragraph if none of the disputed services qualify for continued benefits:*]

You will not get the disputed services at this time. <Plan name> will not take any action regarding these benefits until your appeal is resolved by the IAHO, or until we come to an agreement about the disputed services.

[*Insert the following paragraph if the Participant did not qualify for continuation of services, but the plan partially (but not fully) approved any of the disputed benefits from the original FIDA Plan action/IDT decision:*]

You asked for [*insert benefit and amount requested*]. <Plan name> approved [*insert benefit and amount approved*]. You are appealing this approval because it is not what you requested. We will provide you with the approved services while your appeal goes to Level 2 of the appeal process to decide whether we have to provide you with what you requested.

**Getting your case file and submitting evidence**

You have the right to get a copy of any documents from your case file with <plan name> that will help you show why our decision was wrong. You or your representative (if you have one) may ask for these documents, at no cost, by calling <phone number> or by fax to <fax number>.

If you would like the IAHO to consider information that was not considered by <plan name>, you should submit it **as soon as possible**. We recommend that you submit the information by phone, fax, or email. You may also submit it by mail, bring it to the IAHO office, or present it at an in-person hearing. We recommend keeping a copy of everything for your records.

**FIDA Integrated Administrative Hearings Office (IAHO)**

Mailing Address: FIDA/IAHO-10A, P.O. Box 1930, Albany, NY 12201

Physical Address: 14 Boerum Place, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Phone: 1-844-523-8777

TTY Phone: Call 711, then follow the prompts to dial 844-523-8777

Fax: 518-473-8783

Email: [otda.sm.FIDA.Integrated.Appeals.Office@otda.ny.gov](mailto:otda.sm.FIDA.Integrated.Appeals.Office@otda.ny.gov)

**If you want someone to represent you**

You can have someone else represent you during your appeal. You can choose anyone to represent you, like a family member, friend, doctor, attorney, or an ICAN staff member (see below).

If you already named someone to represent you when you asked for this appeal, or if you have someone who is otherwise able to act for you because he or she is a legal guardian, power of attorney, or otherwise authorized to make health care decisions on your behalf, you do not have to do anything else.

If you have not already named someone to represent you and want to choose someone now, both you and the person you want to act for you must sign and date a statement confirming this is what you want. You can write a letter or use the Appointment of Representative form available at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/downloads/cms1696.pdf>. Send your letter or form to IAHO by fax or mail. Keep a copy for your records. If you have any questions about naming your representative, such as what to say in your letter, contact IAHO using the information above or call us at: <phone number>. TTY users call <TTY number>.

The state created the **Independent Consumer Advocacy Network (ICAN)** to help you with appeals and other issues with the FIDA-IDD program. ICAN is independent, and the services are available to you for free. They can help answer your questions about the appeals process, give you advice, and may even represent you. Call ICAN at 1-844-614-8800. TTY users call 711, then follow the prompts to dial 844-614-8800.

[*The plan must send a copy of this notice to relevant parties (e.g. representative, designated caregiver, etc.) and include the following text:*]

A copy of this notice has been sent to: <name>

<address>

<phone number>

**Get help & more information**

(TTY users call 711, then use the phone numbers below)

| * <Plan name>   Website: <plan website>  Toll Free Phone: <phone number>  TTY users call: <TTY number>  <days and hours of operation>   * Independent Consumer Advocacy Network (ICAN)   Website: <http://icannys.org>  Email: [ICAN@cssny.org](mailto:ICAN@cssny.org)  Toll Free Phone: 1-844-614-8800  8:00am – 8:00pm, Monday – Sunday   * Medicare Rights Center   Toll Free Phone: 1-888-HMO-9050 | * 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)   TTY users call: 1-877-486-2048  24 hours a day, 7 days a week   * NYS Department of Health   Bureau of Managed Long Term Care  Toll Free Phone: 1-866-712-7197   * NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)   Toll Free Phone: 1-866-946-9733 |
| --- | --- |

[*Plan must include all applicable disclaimers as required in the Medicare Communications and Marketing Guidelines and State-specific Marketing Guidance*.]

ATTENTION: If you speak [*insert language of the disclaimer*], language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call [*insert Participant Services toll-free phone and TTY numbers and days and hours of operation*]. The call is free. [*This disclaimer must be included in all non-English languages that meet the Medicare and/or state thresholds for translation.*]

You can get this document for free in other formats, such as large print, braille, or audio. Call [*insert Participant Services toll-free phone and TTY numbers and days and hours of operation*]. The call is free.

The State of New York has created a Participant Ombudsman Program called the Independent Consumer Advocacy Network (ICAN) to provide Participants free, confidential assistance on any services offered by <plan name>. ICAN may be reached toll-free at 1-844-614-8800 (TTY users call 711, then follow the prompts to dial 844-614-8800) or online at [icannys.org](http://www.icannys.org/).

[*The plan is subject to the notice requirements under Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act. For more information, refer to* [*https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/section-1557*](https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/section-1557)*.*]