

OCR Issues Guidance on Rehab Act's Applicability to Child Welfare Agencies

Health Equity

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On January 14, HHS's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) issued [guidance](#) on the implementation of HHS's updated [final rule](#), which went into effect July 2024, governing the application of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to child welfare agencies that receive Federal financial assistance from HHS. These regulatory provisions clarify Section 504's applicability in the child welfare context and do not cover all disability rights laws applicable to child welfare agencies. Among the issues addressed are requirements that ensure individuals with disabilities are not discriminated against in any programs and activities, including parent-child visitation, reunification services, and child placement, among others.