

Once you have applied for FEMA Individual Assistance, FEMA will send you a letter telling you if you are eligible for assistance. If you are denied or believe you did not receive enough assistance for the damages you suffered, **you can appeal the decision.**

You can appeal any of FEMA's decisions about your eligibility for assistance. **There is a 60-day deadline to appeal decisions on FEMA assistance.**

WHAT ARE SOME COMMON REASONS FOR A **FEMA DENIAL**?

- 1 Your home's damage was not caused by the disaster
- 2 FEMA could not verify that you own the home
- 3 FEMA could not verify that you lived in the home before the disaster
- 4 Your insurance covers the losses
- 5 Denial due to duplicate applications or shared household rule
- 6 Denial because did not maintain flood insurance after you received FEMA assistance in the past
- 7 Your car was not registered or did not have insurance when destroyed by disaster

HOW TO APPEAL A FEMA DECISION?

You can appeal a decision by mailing or faxing them a letter.

- On each page you should put:
 - **Your full name**
 - **Your FEMA application number**
 - **The disaster number**
 - **Last four digits of your social security number**
- The letter must include the words "I appeal"
- The letter should explain your reason for appealing and provide documents, receipts or estimates to prove your reason
- If someone is appealing for you such as a lawyer, include a signed statement saying that you are authorizing them to file the appeal for you

WHAT IF YOU MISS THE 60-DAY DEADLINE?

A late filing may be accepted if you provide a good reason for the delay and for missing the deadline

TIPS FOR APPLYING FOR ASSISTANCE AND APPEALING DENIALS OF ASSISTANCE

- Register and apply for assistance as soon as possible once a disaster has been declared.
- Make a list of all your damage inside and outside your home and have it with you when you apply, appeal, or talk with an inspector
- Take lots of pictures of your damage to your house, inside and outside, and of your property including personal property that was damaged such as cars or appliances
- If possible, get estimates from licensed contractors of the damage. The estimates need to be on the letterhead of the contractor and signed by the contractor with a list of the damages and repair costs broken down.
- Do not send original documents to FEMA. Make copies of all your documents and keep everything FEMA sends to you.
- Request your file from FEMA. This will help you know what information FEMA used to make its decision on your application

**APPLY EARLY AND APPEAL EARLY.
DO NOT MISS FEMA DEADLINES.**



FEMA

HOW DO I APPEAL MY FEMA DECISION?

ABOUT US

Dade Legal Aid ("DLA") provides free civil legal services for low-income children, foster youth, individuals and families in need in Miami-Dade County. Since 1949, DLA has been passionately committed to providing "Access to Justice" to residents in dire need of legal representation without means to hire their own attorney. Dedicated Staff Attorneys and Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys provide life-changing, and often life-saving services, in the areas of Child & Teen Advocacy, Guardian ad Litem, Foster Youth Guardianship, Human Sex Trafficking, Domestic Violence, Family Law, Probate & Guardianship, Consumer, Bankruptcy, Benefits, Evictions, Mortgage Foreclosure,

and Real Estate Law. Each year, DLA assists thousands of clients involved in legal disputes that are very contentious and emotional, positively impacting the lives of over 10,000 residents annually utilizing a strategic mix of experienced staff attorneys, pro bono attorneys, law firm partnerships, law school stakeholders and dozens of collaborations with diverse organizations and groups with the aim of assisting vulnerable children, families and populations living in poverty.

CONTACT INFORMATION



FEMA HELPLINE

1-800-621-3362
TTY: 1-800-462-7585



FEMA

P.O. Box 10055
Hyattsville, MD 20782-8055



DISASTER ASSISTANCE

DisasterAssistance.gov
1-800-745-0243
Update & track applications

CONTACT US



305-579-5733



www.dadelegalaid.org



Dade Legal Aid
Put Something Back
Est. 1949

