

WHAT IS SECTION 511?

Section 511 is a rule by the federal government that requires anyone 24 years old or younger to apply to OVR before they can be paid less than minimum wage for the work they perform at a facility, usually called a workshop.

This rule also requires everyone (regardless of age) who is paid less than minimum wage to attend a presentation about OVR at their workshop at least once a year and possibly twice a year if they are new to the workshop.



Section 511 Career Information & Referral Session

OVR conducts these presentations at your workshop as required by Section 511 rules. You will be asked to attend a Section 511 Session every year for as long as you are working for less than minimum wage.

What is a Section 511 Session like?

An employee from OVR, also called a Section 511 Specialist, will visit during your workday to give you and your co-workers a presentation. Usually, these sessions are done in small and large groups, depending on how many people at your workshop are due for a session.

The session will provide information about OVR and the services available to help you find a job in the community that pays at least minimum wage.

When will I have my Section 511 Session?

Your Section 511 Specialist will schedule directly with a staff member at your workshop.

If you, your legal guardian, family and/or Supports Coordinator want to know when OVR will visit you, just ask your Supervisor at work and they will find out.

What do I need to do at my Section 511 Session?

During the session, all you need to do is relax, listen and learn about OVR. And, of course, we want you to ask any questions you have.

You will be asked to sign your name on a sheet of paper to show you completed the session.

At the end of the presentation, you'll be asked if you'd like to be referred to OVR.

What happens after I attend my Section 511 Session?

You will get a letter from your Section 511 Specialist confirming your attendance at the session.

This letter is for you to keep and will contain your Section 511 Specialist's contact information so that you, your legal guardian, family member, Supports Coordinator or Program Specialist can contact them any time you have a question about Section 511, OVR or working in the community for minimum wage.



REMEMBER!

You can be referred to OVR at any time!

You ***do not** have to wait until your annual Section 511 session each year to express an interest in having OVR help you find a new job in the community.

You can tell your workshop staff or Supports Coordinator at any time during the year to start the OVR referral process.



What if I'm not interested in working with OVR to find a new job right now?

If you're not ready or interested in finding a job that pays at least minimum wage, that's okay!

Just remember, your Section 511 Specialist will continue to visit your workshop to talk about OVR and working in the community.

They will also ask you at the end of each session if you'd like to work with OVR.

What if I want OVR to help me find a job in the community?

If you want to apply to OVR, simply tell your Section 511 Specialist after your session.

They will enter the date of your session into the OVR database and indicate your interest in OVR which will automatically start the referral process.

Your Section 511 Specialist will then email your local OVR District Office letting them know you're interested in applying to OVR.

Your Supports Coordinator and Program Specialist at the workshop will also be notified in case you haven't already told them about your desire to find a job in the community.

Your local OVR District Office will follow up with your Supports Coordinator if more information is needed and they'll contact you to schedule an intake with an OVR Counselor who will be assigned to your case.

What if my family or Supports Coordinator has questions about me working with OVR?

OVR wants your team members to have their questions answered and be included in the process.

We just need you (or your court appointed legal guardian) to give us permission by signing a release of information form.

A release will make sure your assigned OVR Counselor can talk to everyone on your team about what's going on with your case.

WHAT IF MY FAMILY OR SUPPORTS COORDINATOR HAS QUESTIONS ABOUT SECTION 511?

Your Section 511 Specialist is available to answer any questions someone on your team has about Section 511. Simply have them email the Section 511 Specialist assigned to their region:

Central Region: Dana Barone - dbarone@pa.gov

Eastern Region: Donna Washington - donnwashin@pa.gov

Western Region: Hastie LeFevre - hlefevre@pa.gov



OVR's website – www.dli.pa.gov/ovr