

Wait Time

When Medical Accompaniment has been authorized for the recipient you are working for, you may be compensated for “wait time” that is associated with accompaniment to medical appointments and alternative resource sites, under certain circumstances.

CDSS has defined two types of Wait Time:

“ENGAGED TO WAIT” OR “ON DUTY”

You, the provider, are not performing work duties but you are unable to use your time effectively for your own purposes. These periods of time are generally unpredictable and usually of short duration. The wait time is an integral part of the job; it belongs to and is controlled by your recipient.

“WAITING TO BE ENGAGED” OR “OFF-DUTY”

You, the provider, are completely relieved from performing work duties and have enough time to use it effectively for your own purposes such as to take a meal break, run a personal errand, or read a book. You must be informed in advance that you may leave the job and that you will not have to resume work until a specified time.

WAIT TIME – ON DUTY:

An example of “Wait Time-On Duty” would be if you accompany your recipient to a routine medical appointment of known duration of 30 minutes or less and are required to remain at the doctor’s office because at any moment you may be called upon to assist your recipient with the travel back home. Wait time-on duty is paid for by the IHSS program.

WAIT TIME – OFF DUTY:

An example of “Wait Time – Off Duty” would be if you accompany your recipient to a dialysis treatment that is scheduled to last several hours. You are not required to remain on the premises, but you must return at a designated time to pick-up your recipient. You

can effectively use that time on your own to engage in personal activities, either on the premises or not, such as to read a book.

When your recipient is authorized for medical accompaniment, if all of the following conditions are met, it will be considered wait time-off duty, which is not paid for by the IHSS program:

- The duration of your recipient's appointment is known in advance which allows you ample notification that you will not be needed to provide services for a specific period of time which can then be used for your own purposes;
- The appointment is scheduled to last long enough for you to engage in personal activity; and
- You are not required or able to perform any other authorized service, e.g. food shopping, other shopping/errands, during the duration of the appointment.

Contact your local county IHSS office for more information regarding wait time.