

DRC DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER - NH

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Representative Payee Project

DRC-NH is now conducting periodic representative payee reviews and educational visits on behalf of the Social Security (SS) Administration. DRC-NH staff will review both organizational and individual representative payees, selected either through direct assignment from SS or at DRC-NH's discretion. The Representative Payee project will ensure SS beneficiaries with Representative Payees are protected from financial exploitation and other abuses.

Representative payee reviews will consist of an interview with the representative payee and a review of the financial records for the requested beneficiary or beneficiaries served. Reviews will also include a home visit and interview of each beneficiary included in the review and an interview with legal guardians and other third parties, when applicable.

Representative Payee Responsibilities

Social Security's Representative Payment Program provides benefit payment management for beneficiaries who are incapable of managing their SS or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments.

Representative payees are authorized by SS to receive SS payments on behalf of the beneficiary and must use the money to pay for the beneficiary's current needs, which include:

- housing and utilities;
- food;
- medical and dental expenses;
- personal care items;
- clothing; and
- rehabilitation expenses (if the beneficiary is a person with a disability).

After those expenses are paid, the payee can use the rest of the money to pay any past-due bills of the beneficiary, support the beneficiary's dependents or provide entertainment for the beneficiary. If there is money left over, the payee should save it for the beneficiary.

The payee must keep accurate records of payments to the beneficiary and how they are spent and regularly report that information to SS. The payee also should share that information with the beneficiary. If the beneficiary lives in an institution, such as a nursing home or a hospital, the payee should pay the cost of the beneficiary's care and provide money for the beneficiary's personal needs. (<https://www.ssa.gov/payee/bene.htm>)

Report An Issue

If you have concerns regarding a representative payee, please contact DRC at (603) 228-0432 or (800) 834-1721, email: mail@drcnh.org or visit: <https://drcnh.org/report-a-rep-payee-issue/>.

