

# Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries

The Representative Payee Program within the  
Protection and Advocacy Network

# National Disability Rights Network

NDRN is the nonprofit membership organization for the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Systems.

Collectively, the P&A network is the largest provider of legally based advocacy services to people with disabilities in the United States.

# Role of a Rep Payee

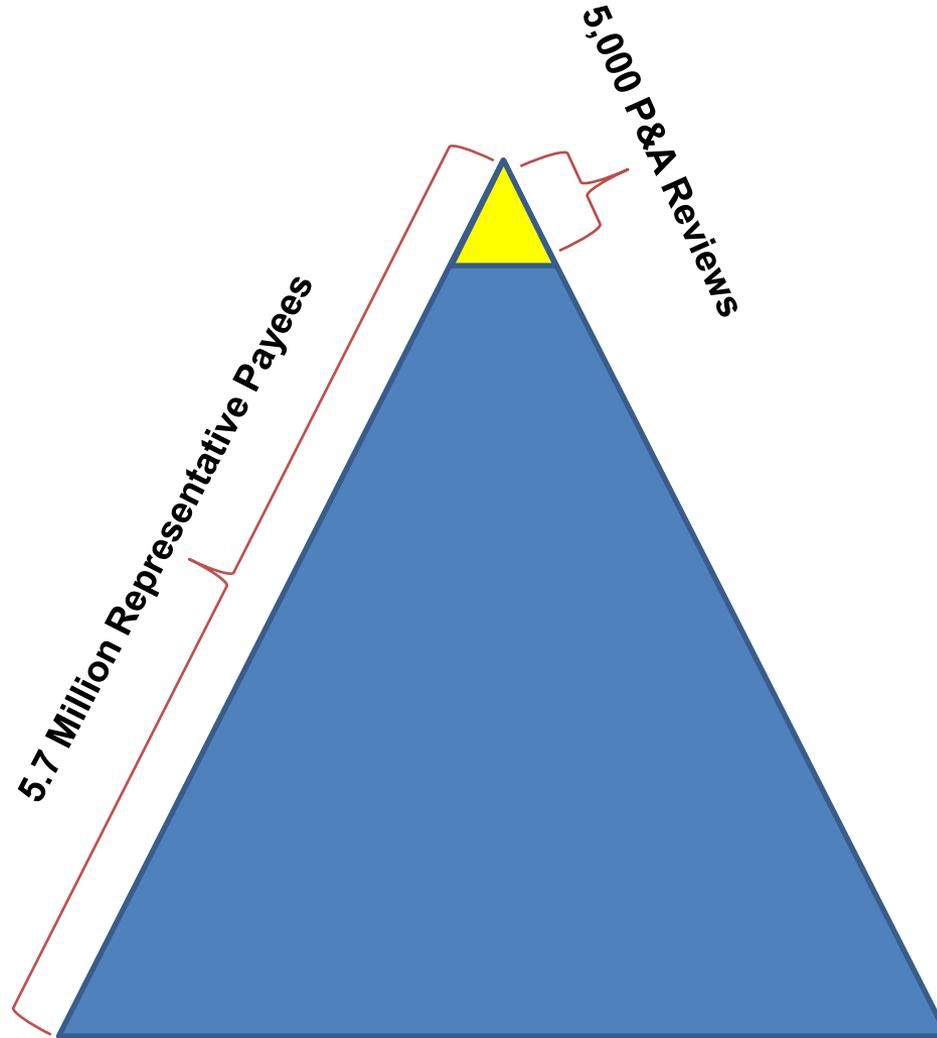
- Verify representative payees use benefits properly for the beneficiary
- Ensure representative payees fully understand and carry out their duties/responsibilities correctly
- Ensure representative payees are on the right track with respect to recordkeeping and reporting
- Immediately identify and address poor payee practices, misuse, health or safety issues, possible financial exploitation or any other issue negatively affecting the beneficiary's well being
- Identify beneficiary needs that require a referral to an appropriate local, state or federal agency

# Representative Payees

Approximately **5.7 million** payees managing **\$70 billion** in annual benefits for **8 million** beneficiaries.

- Psychiatric Hospitals (public and private)
- Nursing Homes / Assisted Living Facilities
- Fee-for Service Payees
- Social Service Organizations
- Individual Payees
- Family Members
- State and local government agencies

# Representative Payees



# History

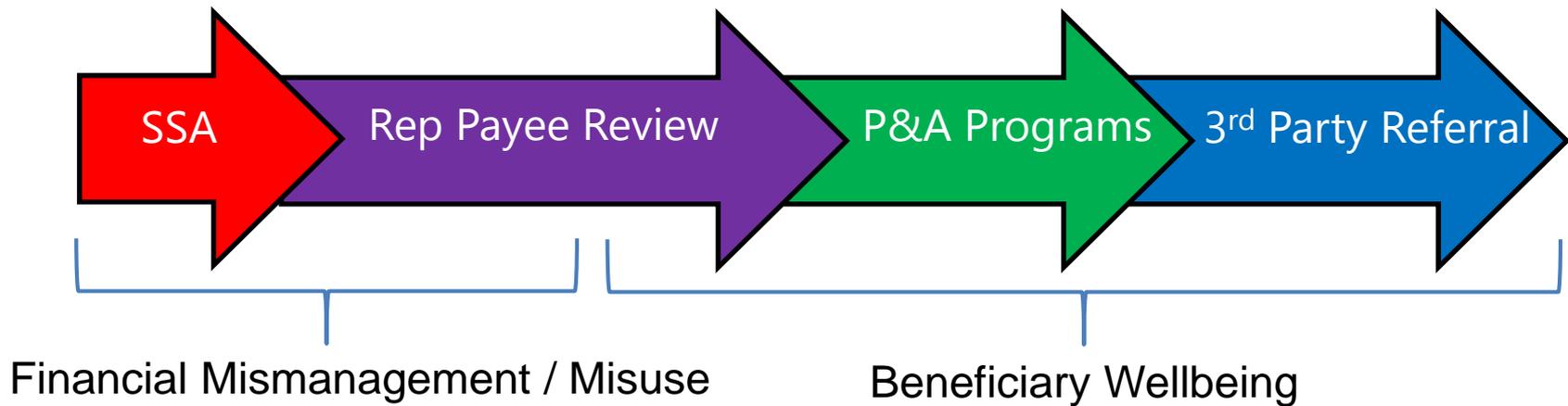
Hill County Farms Case: Henry's Turkey Farm  
Iowa



# Scope of P&A Work

- Schedule and conduct interviews payee, beneficiary and if applicable, legal guardian and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> party
- Review financial records and complete reports
- Develop and monitor corrective action plans for completion
- Make appropriate referrals to local, state or federal entity for:
  - Health & safety concerns
  - Financial exploitation
  - other issues affecting the beneficiary's well-being
  - P & A referrals

# Overview of the Rep Payee Process



# NDRN Scope of Work

- Provide Training
- Deliver Administrative Oversight
- Training and Technical Assistance
- Other Support for Reviews and Educational Visits

# Types of Payee

- Individual Payees
- Organizational Payees
- Fee For Service Payees
- Larger Institutions/Psychiatric Hospitals

# Types of Reviews

- Educational
- Periodic (every 3 years)
- Predictive
- Quick Response
- P&A Initiated

# P&A Initiated



# National Human Trafficking Hotline

[www.humantraffickinghotline.org](http://www.humantraffickinghotline.org)

1-888-373-7888

TTY: 711

Text: 233733

# Why the Protection & Advocacy Network?

- Identify individual beneficiary concerns and systemic concerns
- Provide advocacy
- Collaborate across P&A programs and with partner agencies
- Promote self-determination, access, equality, independence for beneficiaries

# How to Refer a Beneficiary or Report a Rep Payee

Who can report problems with a Rep Payee?  
Anyone

<https://www.ndrn.org/about/ndrn-member-agencies/>

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