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

- 5.7 Million Representative Payees
- 5,000 P&A Reviews
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 3rd 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

1. SSA
2. Rep Payee Review
3. P&A Programs
4. 3rd Party Referral

- Financial Mismanagement / Misuse
- Beneficiary Wellbeing
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

P&A Initiated Reviews

- Disability Advocates
- Centers for Independent Living (CILs)
- Social Service Agencies
- Disability Service Providers
- Legal Service Organizations
- Legal Guardians
- Family Members
- Long-Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman
National Human Trafficking Hotline

www.humantraffickinghotline.org

1-888-373-7888

TYY: 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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