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Jan Dils March Social Security Newsletter

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**SOCIAL SECURITY
& VETERANS DISABILITY**
We Won't Take NO For An Answer®



It's easy to become so focused on fighting for the benefits you deserve that you lose track of the responsibilities that come with receiving benefits. In this month's newsletter, we have outlined some of the important facts you need to know about receiving Social Security benefits.

For instance, if you are receiving benefits for yourself, you may not realize that there is certain information you need to report to Social Security as long as you are receiving benefits—and it goes well beyond notifying about a change of address. Be sure to take a look at the article to help make sure you are familiar with the



[Congrats to Our February 2015 Golden Apple Award Winner!](#)

[Obtaining Social Security Disability Benefits for Another](#)

[SSA Announces Later Office Hours](#)

[The Lowdown on Continuing Disability](#)

the article to help make sure you are familiar with the types of changes that need to be reported.

But what if you are receiving benefits for someone else as a representative payee? There are also several important things to know, including notifying Social Security of any changes that may affect the benefits you oversee. We've included an article for representative payees here, as well as a link to an online handbook with more detailed information.

I hope you will find this month's articles interesting and helpful. I also hope you will feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about your Social Security disability benefits. And most of all, I hope you have a happy, healthy month ahead!

Sincerely,



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Request a copy of Jan Dils easy-to-understand plan on how to apply for and win your benefits

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Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits need help managing their money. After a careful investigation, Social Security will appoint a relative, friend or other interested party to serve as a “representative payee.” If you agree to be a representative payee, Social Security will pay you the person’s benefits to use on his or her behalf.

With certain exceptions, a payee may not collect a fee for services provided to the beneficiary. Unless Social Security authorizes you to collect a fee for providing services, or you are the legal guardian who has been authorized by a court to charge a guardian fee, you may not collect a fee from the beneficiary. However, agreeing to serve as a representative payee is taking on an important responsibility—one that can make a positive difference in both the beneficiary’s life and your life.

We’ve included some basic information here on how to be a representative payee. For specific information about your situation, you should talk with a Social Security representative at your local Social Security office.

As a representative payee, you must know what the beneficiary’s needs are so you can decide how benefits can best be used for his or her personal care and well-being. This is especially important if the beneficiary does not live with you. Each year, Social Security will ask you to complete a form to account for the benefits you have received. Social Security will mail you a form. You can either fill out the form and return it to Social Security or go online at www.socialsecurity.gov/payee to file the report.

Complete your payee
accounting online

As a representative payee, you also will need to tell Social

S-Z

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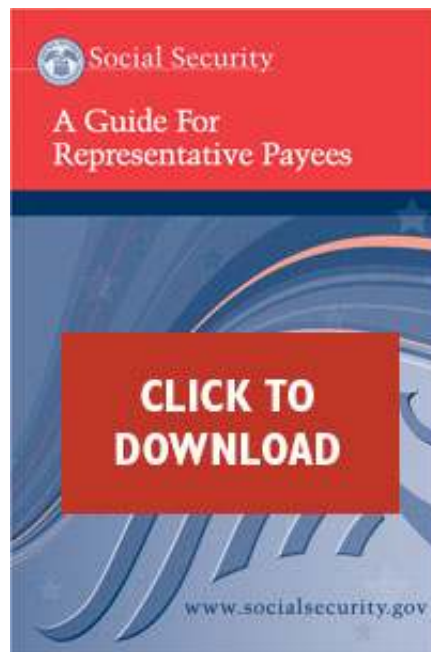
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As a representative payee, you also will need to tell Social Security about changes that may affect the beneficiary's eligibility. The law requires representative payees to use the benefits properly. If a payee misuses benefits, he or she must repay the misused funds and, if convicted, may be fined and imprisoned.

A payee is appointed to manage Social Security funds only. A payee has no legal authority to manage non-Social Security income or medical matters. Family members often use a "power of attorney" as another way to handle a family member's finances. For Social Security purposes, a "power of attorney" does not allow you to manage a person's monthly benefits. Social Security recognizes only a representative payee for handling the beneficiary's funds. The link below provides a handbook with more information for representative payees.



Source: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10076.pdf>



WHAT TYPES OF CHANGES DO YOU NEED TO REPORT TO SOCIAL SECURITY?

When a change occurs that could affect your benefits, you need to notify Social Security by phone, mail or in person. Family members receiving benefits based on your work also should report events that might affect their payments.

The information you give to another government agency may be provided to Social Security by the other agency, but you also must report the change directly to Social Security. Be sure to have your claim number handy when you report a change. If you receive benefits based on your own work, your claim number is the same as your Social Security number followed by the letters “HA.” If you receive benefits on someone else’s work, your claim number will be the other person’s Social Security number followed by a different letter. The award notice you received when your benefits started shows your claim number. You also should be prepared to give the date of the change, and, if different, the name of the person about whom the report is made.



Changes Need To Be Reported:

- If you work while receiving disability payments
 - If you take a job or become self-employed, no matter how little you earn.

- If you receive other disability benefits, you must inform Social Security if:
 - You apply for another type of disability benefit;
 - You receive another disability benefit or a lump-sum settlement; or
 - Your benefits change or stop.

- If you are offered services under the Ticket to Work Program
- If you move
- If you change direct deposit accounts
- If you are unable to manage your benefits
- If you get a pension from work not covered by Social Security
- If you get married or divorced
- If you change your name
- If you care for a child who receives benefits
- If you become a parent after entitlement
- If a child receiving benefits is adopted
- If you have an outstanding warrant for your arrest
- If you are convicted of a crime
- If you violate a condition of parole or probation
- If you leave the United States
- If your citizenship status changes
- If a beneficiary dies
- If you are receiving Social Security and Railroad Retirement benefits

See the link below for more detailed information on all of the items above.

Source: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10153.pdf>

Jan Dils keeps you updated on Social Security disability benefits news and important issues that matter the most. We not only focus on Social Security Disability, we also provide legal assistance for Veterans Disability Benefits. We understand the claims process and specialize in making sure Veterans receive the proper representation needed for receiving benefits. For more information on our Veterans Disability services, please visit www.fight4vets.com

FIGHT4VETS.com

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Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, handles Social Security disability and Veterans' disability claims for clients throughout West Virginia with offices located in Parkersburg-Beckley-Charleston-Huntington-Logan as well as one additional office located in Charlotte, North Carolina. But regardless of where you are located we are able to serve you or a family member Nationwide.

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