



SSA BENEFICIARIES WHO WISH TO BECOME THEIR OWN REPRESENTATIVE PAYEES

You have the right to receive your own Social Security check unless the Social Security Administration (SSA) believes you are not capable of managing or directing the management of your money. SSA will assign you a representative payee if you are incapable of managing your own funds. However, if you believe you are capable of managing your own funds you can take steps to become your own payee.

STEPS TO BECOMING YOUR OWN PAYEE

In order to become your own payee, you must show SSA that you are now mentally and physically able to handle your money yourself. SSA recommends providing:

- A doctor's statement that there has been a change in your condition and that the doctor believes you are able to manage your own finances; or
- Provide SSA with the name and address of your doctor and it will send a form directly to you doctor to verify your ability to handle funds; or
- An official copy of a court order saying that the court believes that you can manage your own finances; or

Other evidence that shows your ability to manage your own finances, such as:

- Letters from family, friends, and other people who know you and can attest to your ability to manage your own money; or
- Evidence of your financial habits such as balancing your checkbook, managing your bank account, or paying your bills.

In addition, you will need to complete a Form SSA-11-BK "Request to Be Selected as Payee" to have the SSA to assign you as your own payee. This request should be made in person at your local SSA office. You should provide SSA your complete Form SSA-11 BK along with your supporting documentation to show that you are able to handle your own funds.

NOTE: If SSA believes your medical condition has improved to the point that you no longer need a payee, it may reevaluate your eligibility for disability benefits.

WHAT IF SSA DENIES MY APPLICATION FOR BECOMING MY OWN PAYEE?

You have the right to appeal either the decision that you need a representative payee, or the designation of the person or organization SSA has chosen as your representative payee. You have 60 days to appeal a decision by contacting SSA. Please visit your local Social Security office or call at 1-800-772-1213 for more information.

DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW YORK CONTACT INFORMATION

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