

What is the Representative Payee Grant Program of the Minnesota Disability Law Center?

Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC) is a statewide program of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, which is the designated protection and advocacy system for people with disabilities in Minnesota.

Under a new grant as part of the Federal Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries Act of 2018, MDLC completes onsite reviews of Representative Payees and Beneficiaries throughout Minnesota, working under the guidance of the Social Security Administration.

Read inside about Representative Payees and the MDLC's new Representative Payee grant.

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MINNESOTA DISABILITY LAW CENTER

Representative Payee Grant Program



A Statewide Project of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Representative Payee Grant Program

First, what is a Representative Payee?

If the Social Security Administration (SSA) decides that a person who gets SSI or SSDI benefits (the Beneficiary) and can't manage these funds alone, then SSA assigns someone to help manage their money. This person is known as the Representative Payee.

Who can be a Representative Payee?

The Representative Payee can be an individual, a family member or an organization.

Who chooses the Representative Payee?

SSA decides who the Representative Payee is for a Beneficiary.

Does the Representative Payee get paid?

Only organizations approved by SSA can charge a fee (which is no more than \$44 a month for most Beneficiaries). If the Representative Payee is a family member or an individual, they do not get paid.

What services does the Minnesota Disability Law Center offer under the Representative Payee Grant?

MDLC works with SSA to make sure that Representative Payees are doing their job correctly. We interview Representative Payees and look at financial records to ensure the Representative Payees are following best practices for their Beneficiaries. We also meet with Beneficiaries and ask them how their Representative Payees help them.

What kind of education or training does MDLC offer under this grant?

We provide educational information to Representative Payees and Beneficiaries about their roles and responsibilities.

We also offer educational visits or presentations on the Representative Payee Program to interested programs, service providers or case managers.

What if MDLC finds a problem with how the Representative Payee is handling the Beneficiary's money?

We may recommend an action plan to fix the problem or refer the issue to SSA to investigate further.

Will MDLC help me get a new Representative Payee?

No, MDLC will refer Beneficiaries to call or visit SSA to change their Representative Payee. However, MDLC can assist with other legal issues related to the person's disability.



Can MDLC conduct a review of a Representative Payee?

Yes, contact MDLC at the numbers below to explain the issue and provide the Representative Payee's name. We will share the information with SSA who will decide if a review is needed.

CONTACTS

Learn more about the SSA Representative Payee Program at www.ssa.gov/payee/
Or call Social Security 1.800.772.1213

Request assistance with a legal issue related to a disability throughout Minnesota

Call Minnesota Disability Law Center at 1.800.292.4150 or 612.334.5970

More information about the Representative Payee Grant

Contact Sarah Watts
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Visit www.lawhelpmn.org for MDLC's factsheets and resources.

This information is available in other formats upon request.