



NURSING HOMES

Social Security Administration Facts

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To The Point

Points of interest in this fact sheet:

- **Representative Payee.** Who needs a payee and how you can help.
- **SSI and Short Term Stays.** Continued full SSI payments
- **Power of Attorney.** Why Social Security needs more.
- **Employee Information.** Helpful information for nursing home employees such as working while receiving benefits, your Social Security Statement, and more!

Representative Payee, Who & Why

Most people who receive Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits handle their own finances. Others must have assistance in the management of their money. Nursing homes are often the first to alert Social Security to the fact that a person is no longer capable of handling his or her own benefits. But how does Social Security determine who needs this helping hand we call a *Representative Payee*?

Social Security law requires that some persons, such as most minor children, legally incompetent adults, and persons receiving disability benefits who have substance or alcohol abuse history, have a *Representative Payee*. In other situations adults are presumed to be able to manage their own benefits unless Social Security is presented evidence, usually medical or lay, that indicates the person is no longer mentally capable of handling his or her own finances. When Social Security encounters one of the above situations, we begin the process of finding and appointing an appropriate *Representative Payee*. Once a *Representative Payee* is appointed by Social Security, the payee is able to conduct business on the mentally incapable person's behalf with our agency. Sometimes nursing homes even serve as *Representative payee*. It should be noted that persons with physical impairments but no mental impairments rarely need a *Representative Payee* because, in most situations, they are able to manage or direct the management of their benefits.



If you encounter someone in your facility who you feel may not be able to manage his or her own Social Security or SSI funds, notify your local Social Security office or call our toll free number, **1-800-772-1213**. We will then begin the determination process as to that person's ability to manage his or her benefits. Your facility's physician or medical officer may be requested to complete Form SSA-787, "*Physician's / Medical Officer's Statement of Patient's Capability to Manage Benefits*" as part of our determination process. Your continued diligence and cooperation is needed and deeply appreciated. Thank you from Social Security.

SSI and Short Term Stays

People who reside in public institutions generally are ineligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). However, certain people who reside in medical institutions, may be able to continue to receive their full SSI payments during a temporary stay.

SSI recipients can qualify for these continued pay-

ments if they need to maintain and pay expenses associated with their permanent residence and a doctor certifies they are expected to be in your facility 90 days or less. Social Security must receive evidence of these requirements by the 90th day after the person has entered your institution or by the date of discharge, whichever is the earliest date.

You can help people qualify for continued SSI payments by promptly notifying (or helping them notify) the local Social Security office of their temporary stay in your facility. Do this as soon as possible after their entrance into your facility, but no later than 90 days. You can also call our toll free telephone number, **1-800-772-1213**.



