



Call **Disability Rights Ohio** with Concerns about Representative Payees*

A **representative payee** is someone that receives Social Security benefits money for another person who is not fully capable of managing their own money.

It's an important job that requires responsibility and trust. Unfortunately, sometimes representative payees misunderstand the rules they are required to follow. Or worse, they can exploit or abuse the person they're supposed to be helping.

Disability Rights Ohio works with the Social Security Administration to conduct **Representative Payee Reviews**.

During a representative payee review, our staff will:

- Interview the representative payee and one or more beneficiaries
- Review the representative payee's financial records, bank statements, and receipts for the beneficiaries they serve
- Conduct a home visit to ensure the safety and health of the beneficiary

Look out for these RED FLAGS with a representative payee's work:

- Payee mixes a beneficiary's money with anyone else's money
- Payee refuses to share information with beneficiary or answer questions
- Payee is mean or disrespectful to beneficiary
- Payee fails to pay any bill on time
- Beneficiary is not able to reach or contact the payee
- Payee charges a fee when they aren't supposed to
- Payee withholds money as a punishment
- Payee tries to control non-Social Security money
- Payee tries to control other life decisions besides benefits money
- Beneficiary has unmet important needs
- Beneficiary lives in a home that is unsafe/unsanitary
- Payee lives with beneficiary and charges excessive rent or utilities
- Beneficiary gets an overpayment due to payee's error

If you have concerns that a representative payee isn't doing their job, **Disability Rights Ohio may be able to help.**

Call us at 614-466-7264 or 800-282-9181

**This document is funded through a Social Security grant agreement. Although Social Security reviewed this document for accuracy, it does not constitute an official Social Security communication. We developed this document at U.S. taxpayer expense.*

