

Social Security Benefits SSA

Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families

Policy: 1000.0010

Effective Date: December 18, 1984 Version: 1

Social Security Administration benefits are provided to those dependents and survivors of individuals who have earned sufficient credits during their employment career and who qualify for benefits. The Department has the responsibility to pursue federally-funded benefits for which children in care may be eligible, in order to maximize the benefits that the Department as representative payee may utilize in the best interests of and on behalf of the child.

1. Eligibility for SSA Dependents'/Survivor's Benefits - The three categories of eligibility for Social Security benefits for unmarried children in care are:
 - a. Disability Dependent - natural, legal, or adopted child of a disabled parent.
 - b. Retirement Dependent - natural, legal, or adopted child of a retired parent.
 - c. Survivors - natural, legal, or adopted child of a deceased parent (putative father - disabled or deceased - only if paternity has been established).
2. Children can continue to receive benefits until eighteen (18) years of age if they are enrolled in school full time or up to nineteen (19) years of age when they graduate from high school, whichever comes first.
3. If a child is adopted and the natural parent, whose rights have been terminated, subsequently dies, retires, or is disabled, the child would be eligible for dependent benefits, with the adoptive parent as representative payee. If a child in placement with SSA benefits is subsequently adopted, benefits continue and a change of payee to the adoptive parent is authorized.

Income/Assets - There is no income or asset test for SSA benefits, and the account has no maximum limit.

Medical Coverage - There is no automatic medical coverage for SSA beneficiaries. Separate application must be made.

Re-determination - SSA benefits do not undergo a periodic re-determination process.

Disposition of Benefits - The Department as representative payee has the responsibility to receive and use the SSA benefits in the best interests of and on behalf of the child.

Related Procedures

[SSA Application](#)

The Appeal Process

Disposition of Assets

Application of Disabled Child Benefits

Transfer of Payment

Reimbursement of Benefits

SSA Application

Procedure From Policy 1000.0010: Social Security Benefits SSA

- A. When a child in placement is considered to be eligible for SSA benefits, the worker notifies the case aide in the medical and benefits office with the following information:
 - 1. Wage earner's name.
 - 2. Wage earner's social security number.
 - 3. Date of birth/date of death if available.
- B. The medical and benefits office completes form SSA 1610 and forwards it to the Social Security Office in Providence.
- C. Upon receipt of the SSA 1610, the Social Security Office determines whether or not benefits are currently being paid in that wage earner's name. If so, the medical and benefits office can file change of payee forms SSA 11 & 795. When an initial claim is made, medical and benefits office staff will request the following from the caseworker:
 - 1. Child's birth certificate.
 - 2. Child's and deceased parent's social security number.
 - 3. Deceased parent's death certificate.
- D. The medical and benefits office completes appropriate forms and submits them to the Social Security Office.
- E. There is no medical coverage for SSA beneficiaries; a separate application must be made.

The Appeal Process

Procedure From Policy 1000.0010: Social Security Benefits SSA

In response to a denial of eligibility by the Social Security Administration, the Department may choose to request a "reconsideration", an appeal for a Federal Court hearing, pursuant to established procedure.

Disposition of Assets

Procedure From Policy 1000.0010: Social Security Benefits SSA

- A. The Department as representative payee receives and uses the benefits in the best interests of and on behalf of children in placement. The Division of Management and Budgeting makes arrangements for Steps B and C below.
- B. The benefits are applied toward the cost of care.
- C. Benefits in excess of cost of care are deposited in a savings account in the child's name, with the Department as guardian. This is a direct deposit. Benefits may accrue with no maximum limit.
- D. The savings may be applied toward increased board, therapeutic, recreational, or educational activities, devices not covered by medical assistance, homemaker, respite care, clothing, bicycle, furniture, or any other purchases for the personal use of the child.
- E. The worker consults with the child's caretaker (foster parent(s) or residential care provider) to discuss the child's needs and appropriate expenditures.
- F. The worker follows the procedure indicated below in arranging for purchases from the child's account. Expenditures can be made by either of the following courses of action:
 - 1. Issuance of Payment Prior to Purchase:
 - a. The worker, foster parent(s), or caretaker(s) can price selected items.
 - b. The worker prepares an interoffice memo itemizing the anticipated purchase and price.
 - c. The memo must be approved by the supervisor and Assistant Director and forwarded to the Division of Management and Budgeting for approval by the Chief of Administrative Services;
 - d. When approved, a check will be issued payable to foster parent, caretaker, or merchant for the amount and mailed to the foster parent, provider, or caseworker as appropriate; and
 - e. Upon purchase of the approved item(s) with the issued checks, the worker or caretaker will submit receipts or stubs to the Federal Benefits and Programs Office.
 - 2. Reimbursement of Purchases Made:
 - a. The steps in Procedure for Disposition of Assets, Section C (1, 2, 3), will be followed, and if approved by Management and Budgeting, proceed with Item B below;
 - b. The worker or caretaker can purchase the approved item(s) and forward receipts to Management and Budgeting for reimbursement; and
 - c. A check will be issued to the purchaser for the amount.

Application of Disabled Child Benefits

Procedure From Policy 1000.0010: Social Security Benefits SSA

A disabled child who is receiving SSA benefits at age eighteen (18) can be considered for adult disabled child SSA benefits. SSA benefits can be received for as long as that child is disabled, regardless of age. Application for these benefits should be made three (3) months prior to the child's eighteenth (18) birthday. Current medical/psychological information must be submitted by the worker to the Medical and Benefits Unit. This information will then be forwarded to the Social Security Administration for determination.

Transfer of Payment

Procedure From Policy 1000.0010: Social Security Benefits SSA

When a child in placement returns home, arrangements must be promptly made to transfer the payments to the appropriate parent or caretaker. There is no automatic transfer of monies from the Department to the parent or caretaker. Rather, the Department returns all savings account monies to the Social Security Office which then determines the proper payee for future benefits.

Reimbursement of Benefits

Procedure From Policy 1000.0010: Social Security Benefits SSA

- A. At the time of placement of the SSA eligible child, the primary service worker shall have the parents'/guardians' sign a DCYF #081, Parental Authorization for Reimbursement of Benefits. This form will be filed in the case record. Upon the child's return home, this form will enable the Department to collect these SSA payments retroactive to the time of the child's placement.
- B. The primary service worker will notify the Medical and Benefits Unit of the child's return home at the appropriate time and forward a copy of the signed DCYF #081 to the Medical and Benefits Unit.