

Before Contacting PABSS You Can Try Self-Advocacy

Self-Advocacy Tips:

- Believe in yourself and know your rights
- Become familiar with the different services that exist to help protect your rights
- Get all of the facts
- Discuss your concerns with those involved
- Use your communication skills
- Use the chain of command
- Keep written records of what is said to you and by whom
- Keep all paperwork that is given to you
- Know your appeal rights
- Be assertive and persistent
- Follow Up

How to Request Help:

To get help from Disability Rights Montana, call and visit with one of our advocacy specialists. If an advocate is unavailable, your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Our office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

You can also fill out a "Request for Service" form on our website.

Education and Training:

Disability Rights Montana is available to conduct training seminars, please call for more information.

disability **rights**
montana

1022 Chestnut Street
Helena, Montana 59601-0820

Voice/TDD: 1-406-449-2344

Toll Free: 1-800-245-4743

Fax: 1-406-449-2418

advocate@disabilityrightsmt.org

www.disabilityrightsmt.org

Disability Rights Montana protects and advocates for the human, legal and civil rights of Montanans with disabilities while advancing dignity, equality and self-determination.

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Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security

The PABSS program assists beneficiaries of Social Security in their efforts to enter or re-enter the workforce by removing barriers to employment.

What is PABSS?

The Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) program was established under the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act (TWWIIA) of 1999. The purpose of this program, is to protect the legal rights of Social Security beneficiaries in their efforts to secure, maintain, and regain employment and is funded by the Social Security Administration (SSA).

What Can PABSS do?

Disability Rights Montana has a licensed attorney and an advocate who work in the PABSS program.

PABSS staff can provide information, referral, short-term and technical assistance, as well as investigate complaints and provide legal consultation and representation regarding barriers to employment.

Barriers to Employment Include:

Work-related transportation, job accommodation needs, assistive technology needs, workplace conditions, housing (when lack of housing is an obstacle to obtaining or maintaining employment), Medicaid and Medicare services, access to supports and services, access to transition services, and work-related Social Security overpayments.

PABSS Staff Can Help You By:

- Providing free and confidential services.
- Providing information or referrals to professionals about how working will affect your social security benefits.
- Providing information about programs, services, and supports that are available to help you in return-to-work efforts.
- Providing information and technical assistance on work incentive programs that may help you obtain meaningful employment.
- Providing assistance with any issues you have with obtaining the services and support you need to return to work.
- Advocating on your behalf to resolve any conflicts that you may have with service providers and employment networks as you return to work.
- Helping you understand and protect your employment rights and reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act and other applicable laws.
- Providing assistance with obtaining workplace accommodations.
- Advocating on your behalf if you are experiencing employment discrimination.

PABSS Eligibility:

This program is for individuals who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Childhood Disability Benefits (CDB), and/or Disabled Widow(er) Benefits (DWB).

Resources:

SSA Ticket to Work Program

1-866-833-2967 (TTY)

1-866-968-7842 (toll-free)

<https://choosework.ssa.gov/>

MSU Billings: Montana Center for Inclusive Education

1-406-657-2312 (V/TTY)

1-888-866-3822 (toll-free)

Montana Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services

1-406-444-2590 (V/TTY)

1-877-296-1197 (toll-free)

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/detd/vocrehab/mvproficesbycounty>

Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow

1-406-245-1225 (V/TTY)

1-800-669-6319 (toll-free)

Montana Independent Living Project

1-406-442-5755 (V/TTY)

1-800-735-6457 (toll-free)

North Central Independent Living Services

1-406-452-9834 (V/TTY)

1-800-823-6245 (toll-free)

Summit Independent Living Center

1-406-728-1630 (V/TTY)

1-800-398-9002 (toll-free)