

before contacting PABSS you can try self advocacy

self advocacy tips

- believe in yourself and know your rights
- get all the facts
- discuss your concerns with those involved
- keep written records of what is said to you and by whom
- keep all paperwork that is given to you
- know your rights to appeal decisions with which you don't agree
- follow the steps to make a complaint
- become familiar with the array of services that exist to facilitate and protect your rights

how to request help

To get help from Disability Rights Montana, call and talk with one of our advocates. You can also fill out a Request for Service form on our website. Our office is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If an advocate is unavailable when you contact Disability Rights Montana, your call will be returned no later than the following business day.



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



funding statement

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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, which is funded by the Social Security Administration (SSA), is to protect the legal rights of a Social Security beneficiary in their efforts to return to work.

PABSS program staff can assist people who:

- receive SSI or SSDI
- have questions or complaints about Medicaid, Medicare, food stamps, subsidized housing (Section 8), TANF, worker's compensation, and unemployment
- have return-to-work issues
- have problems getting workplace accommodations
- are experiencing employment discrimination
- have complaints about employment networks or service providers
- need information on how working will affect benefits such as SSI or SSDI
- need information and technical assistance on work incentive programs that will help beneficiaries maintain their benefits while trying to return to work

what can PABSS do?

Disability Rights Montana has a licensed attorney and an advocate who work in the PABSS program. They can help you with:

- access to and disputes with community service providers
- special education and transition
- health care
- disability benefits and work incentives
- rights and conditions of employment
- vocational rehabilitation and preparation
- rights, responsibilities, and reasonable accommodations under the ADA
- wage and hour issues
- transportation
- housing
- assistance removing barriers to a beneficiary's return-to-work goal

what can PABSS not do?

The PABSS program cannot help you with:

- Social Security disability determination
- personal injury
- criminal defense
- attempts to obtain guardianship
- property and probate issues
- malpractice
- direct cash assistance

what can PABSS do?

advocacy

Advocate for Social Security beneficiaries who want to return to work and are experiencing return-to-work issues. These issues may include, but are not limited to employment rights, employment discrimination, accessing assistive technology, Vocational Rehabilitation and Social Security Work Incentives necessary to promote independent meaningful employment. Believe in yourself and know your rights.

legal staff

Review, investigate, mediate, and help beneficiaries resolve complaints about discriminatory practices, inadequate or inappropriate services of employment service providers, employers, and community support providers.

education & training

PABSS program staff are available to conduct training seminars. For more information call Disability Rights Montana at (406) 449-2344 or toll free at 1-800-245-4743.

