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PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR BENEFICIARIES OF SOCIAL SECURITY (PABSS)

Employment has long been recognized as a key to unlocking doors to personal growth, enhancing self-esteem, and providing a more fulfilling life. Yet, persons with disabilities continue to represent an underutilized segment of the work force. According to Department of Labor statistics, only about 29% of persons with disabilities between the ages of 16 to 64 are working full or part time. The Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) program is now available to assist beneficiaries in the removal of barriers to work.

The PABSS program has two purposes. The first purpose is to inform and advise Social Security beneficiaries with disabilities about vocational rehabilitation and employment services available to them. The second purpose is to help beneficiaries with disabilities obtain the services they need to secure or return to gainful employment.

Disability Rights Texas' PABSS advocates will:

- Investigate and review any complaint of improper or inadequate services provided to a beneficiary with a disability by a service provider, employer, or other entity involved in a beneficiary's return to work effort.
- Provide information and referral to Social Security beneficiaries with disabilities about work incentives and employment, including information on the types of services and assistance that may be available to assist them in securing or returning to gainful employment. Technical assistance and information on work incentives will be provided to individuals, other advocates, and groups.
- Provide consultation to and legal representation on behalf of beneficiaries with disabilities when such services become necessary to protect the rights of such beneficiaries. Whenever possible, alternative dispute resolution, including mediation and good faith negotiation, will be utilized.
- Attempt to identify and correct deficiencies in entities providing vocational rehabilitation services, employment services and other support services to beneficiaries with disabilities involved in the return to work effort.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Please let us know how we can help you. If you are a person with a disability currently on Social Security (SSDI/SSI), or a family member or a service provider of an individual on disability benefits, contact us at our statewide intake line at 1-800-252-9108.

Disability Rights Texas' goal is to make each handout understandable by and useful to the general public. If you have suggestions on how this handout can be improved, please contact the agency the telephone number shown on our web site, www.DisabilityRightsTx.org, or send an e-mail to info@disabilityrightstx.org. Thank you for your assistance. This handout is available in Braille and/or on audio tape upon request. Disability Rights Texas strives to update its materials on an annual basis, and this handout is based upon the law at the time it was written. The law changes frequently and is subject to various interpretations by different courts. Future changes in the law may make some information in this handout inaccurate. The handout is not intended to and does not replace an attorney's advice or assistance based on your particular situation.