

March 2011 **EM8**

WHAT IS PABSS?

You can work and keep your health benefits!

If you are a person with a disability and you are currently receiving Social Security (SSI/SSDI) and you need advocacy or legal services concerning work issues, Disability Rights Texas can help.

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 of 1999. This program, which is funded by the Social Security Administration, is responsible for protecting the legal rights of Social Security beneficiaries in their efforts to return to work. In Texas, the program is administered by Disability Rights Texas, which has been protecting the legal rights of Texans with disabilities since 1977.

What Services Does PABSS Provide?

The PABSS program does two things. First, it will give information and advice about getting vocational rehabilitation and employment services. Second, it will provide advocacy or other services that a beneficiary needs to find work for the first time or return to work. Under PABSS services, the advocate will:

- Provide information about programs, services, and supports available to help you return to work.
- Provide information about the many work incentives that may be helpful in your efforts to obtain meaningful employment.
- Refer you to professionals who can explain how returning to work will affect your benefits.
- Provide you with assistance if you have problems in getting the services and support you need to return to work.
- Advocate on your behalf to resolve any conflicts you may have with service providers and employers as you try to return to work.
- Assist with disputes before SSA involving work related decisions, including overpayments that are clearly a barrier to obtaining employment.

You Are Eligible for PABSS Services If:

- You are a Social Security Administration (SSA) beneficiary receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- You need information about how returning to work will affect your benefits; or

- You are having trouble getting the rehabilitation or other employment-related services or support you need to return to work, including accommodation concerns you may be experiencing with your employer.

How Do I Contact a PABSS Advocate?

Statewide Intake Line for New Callers: 1-800-252-9108

**Intake Hours: Monday – Thursday/ 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Friday/ 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Toll-Free Line for Current Clients: 1-800-315-3876

Statewide Videophone: 1-866-362-2851

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 Disability Rights Texas, www.DisabilityRightsTx.org, at the telephone number shown above or e-mail our agency at 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.