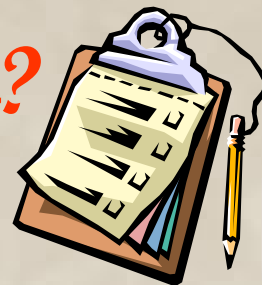


Have you re-enrolled yet?



Be sure to bring in these items listed below
to your scheduled appointment with Case Manager

Photo ID

Drivers License, State Id

Proof of Income

*Social Security Print out or Benefit Statement for Year 2013
Current Paycheck Stubs for 1 month
2012 W-2 Wage & Tax Statement or
Social Security 1099 Benefit Statement*

Proof of Insurance

*Medicaid, Medicare or other Insurance Card,
if applicable*

LINK Printout or Card

i.e. Food Stamps



Proof of Residency

*Current lease, bank or benefit statement, utility
bill, pay stub, letter from State or Federal Gov.*



*Call your Case Manager
Today to Schedule
Your Appointment!*

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Newsletter Designer:
Michael Macocco

Social Security Changes >Direct Deposit<



If you apply for Social Security or Supplemental Security Income benefits, you must receive your payments electronically. If you did not sign up for electronic payments when you applied for benefits, we strongly urge you to do it now. You must switch to electronic payments by March 1, 2013. If you don't, the U.S. Department of the Treasury may send your benefits via the Direct Express® card program to avoid an interruption in payment.

What is direct deposit?

Direct deposit delivers your Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit into your bank, savings and loan or credit union's account quickly and safely. The U.S. Treasury sends an electronic message to your bank, savings and loan or credit union crediting your account with the exact amount of your Social Security or SSI benefit. You can withdraw money, put some in savings or pay bills—the things you do with your money now. The difference is, your check isn't printed or mailed.

Do I have to receive my benefits electronically?

Yes. Effective May 1, 2011, applicants filing for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit payments must choose either direct deposit or the Direct Express® debit card. Currently entitled beneficiaries and recipients receiving payment by check will have until March 1, 2013 to switch to direct deposit or the Direct Express® debit card. As of March 2011, 85 percent of all Social Security and SSI beneficiaries received their benefits by direct deposit. For more information, please visit the Department of the Treasury's Go Direct® website <http://www.godirect.org>

Where do I sign up for electronic payments?

If you already have a checking or savings account, ask at your bank where you have an account. They'll be glad to help you. Be sure to take your bank statement or personal check, and your Social Security number when you go to sign up. Or, you can call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). We'll need to determine your identity by asking you a few questions. We'll also need your banking information and your Social Security number. The Direct Express® card is a debit card you can use to access your benefits. And you don't need a bank account. You can use your card for free. There is no sign-up fee and no monthly account fee. Most of the services are provided free of charge. It's quick and easy to sign up for the card. Call the toll-free Direct Express® hotline at **1-877-212-9991**.

What are the benefits of using electronic payments?

The benefits of using electronic payments are: There are no checks to be lost or stolen. You'll get your benefits on time, even if you're out of town, sick or unable to get to the bank.

Both you and your money are safe

When can I use my money?

Your money is available for use as soon as the bank deposits it into your account. You can write checks, pay bills, withdraw money or put some into savings. Anything you usually do with your money now, you can also do with direct deposit.

If I get SSI benefits by direct deposit, how do I get proof of my benefit amount so I can apply for the energy assistance program?

If you are a Social Security or SSI beneficiary using direct deposit, you'll receive a notice in December showing your benefit amount that includes any annual cost-of-living increase that may go into effect in January. You can use this notice when you need proof of your benefit amount for the energy assistance program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), rent subsidies, bank loans or other business.


Connectors

▲ Todd Kisner - Project Director
Case Managers:
Tracy Box (815) 720-4084
Trish Paesani (815) 720-4086
Mike Macocco (815) 720-4085
Stacia Runge (815) 748-2449
Deb LeRoy (815) 626-2230

Marie McGinnis (309) 762-5433
Jean Dutton (309) 762-5433




Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services is changing the Medical Card.



State of Illinois – Healthcare and Family Services
MEDICAL CARD

For questions or to report changes call:
Para preguntas o reportar cambios llame al:
DHS 1-800-843-6154, or
HFS 1-800-226-0768
(TTY 1-877-204-1012)



(CASE NAME
AND ADDRESS)

**Keep this card and the separate notice we send about your medical coverage.
Guarde esta tarjeta y el aviso separado que le enviamos sobre su cobertura médica.**

HFS 469 (R-9-12) IL478-0234

The new paper card will no longer be replaced monthly.

**Attention
Medicaid
Recipients**

- When a person is enrolled for medical benefits, the new **Medical Card** will be mailed along with instructions for using it.
- The new card does not guarantee eligibility or payment for service.
- The provider must verify eligibility and identity for each date of service.
- A person who loses eligibility and later re-enrolls will be assigned the same identification number.

New Medical Cards will be sent following a person's annual redetermination.

For more information visit
<http://www.hfs.illinois.gov>



State of Illinois
Department of Healthcare and Family Services

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Power of Attorney (Healthcare)



What is a Power of Attorney for Health Care?

A Power of Attorney for Health Care is a form which gives another person the power to make some health care decisions for you when you cannot make decisions for yourself. You can choose who to give this power to. The person you choose is usually your spouse, a close friend, or a trusted relative. This person is called your "agent" or "attorney in fact." You can choose more than one agent, but only one agent can make decisions for you at any one time. If you do choose more than one agent, the first agent will make decisions for you until he is unable or unwilling to act on your behalf.

Why would I want a Power of Attorney for Health Care?

There may come a time in your life when you can't make decisions for yourself because of age or disability. If this happens, someone will have to make important health care decisions for you. A Power of Attorney for Health Care lets you decide now who that person will be. You can also use the Power of Attorney for Health Care to guide the person as to what decisions you want made for you. Basically, you can use the Power of Attorney for Health Care to tell another person to make the decisions that you would have made if you were healthy enough to decide for yourself.

Who will make decisions for me if I don't have a Power of Attorney for Health Care?

If you do not have a Power of Attorney, your family along with your doctors will make decisions about your health care needs. You may not agree with the decision your family makes on your behalf. Or, your family members may not be able to agree on how to handle your medical care. A Power of Attorney will help you have some control over how decisions are made on your behalf.

What kinds of powers will my agent have?

The amount of power your agent will have over your personal care decisions is up to you. Your Power of Attorney for Health Care can give the agent permission to make all decisions relating to your personal care. Or, it can be written to give the agent the power to act in only specific situations.

What are the limits on my agent's power?

You will make your own health care decisions as long as you are able to make decisions and express your wishes. The agent cannot override your wishes, even if you have created a valid Power of Attorney for Health Care. Also, you can add any specific restrictions in the Power of Attorney that you want. For example, if some types of treatment are against your religious beliefs, you can prevent the agent from allowing those treatments by saying so in your Power of Attorney.

Does the agent have to make decisions for me?

No. The agent is not legally required to use any of the powers given in the Power of Attorney. The agent may refuse to act on your behalf for any reason. This is why you may want to choose a second agent. If the agent does choose to act on your behalf, the agent must always use due care to act for your benefit, according to the terms of your Power of Attorney. In other words, once the agent chooses to act on your behalf, he must follow the directions of the Power of Attorney. An agent can choose to quit at any time, in any manner.

How long does the Power of Attorney for Health Care last?

A Power of Attorney for Health Care will last until your death. If you want it to last for a different amount of time you can write that in the Power of Attorney form. Also, you can always change or end the Power of Attorney. Changes must be made in writing and signed and dated by you. You can end a Power of Attorney by physically destroying the form, or by giving your agent written notice. To read more about how you can end a Power of Attorney relationship, please see the information under "Related Articles."

Who should have copies of the Power of Attorney for Health Care?

Give a copy to: Your doctor-The hospital that you normally use

Any agent or agents named in your Power of Attorney-Any close friends or relatives

If you ever make changes to your Power of Attorney, or if you end your Power of Attorney, you should tell everyone who has a copy of the original document. Also, you should give each person a new version, if necessary.

* Article reprinted from www.IllinoisLegalAid.org