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Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 3:02 PM

Subject: SSI/SSDI/SNAP & personal allowance as well as rent

To financial benefits staff:

Pursuant to Social Security regulations, representative payees must use the individual's SSI or SSDI benefits to provide for the individual's current needs such as food, clothing, housing, medical care and personal comfort items, or for reasonably foreseeable needs if the person's current needs are met.

If an OPWDD served individual, who would normally live in a residence run by a certified agency, has remained with family during the COVID emergency and the family as representative payee is using the funds for the person's current needs, this is within the scope of the representative payee's

responsibilities. Nothing in OPWDD guidelines prevents residential providers from negotiating a room and board payment for less than the maximum provider payment with the representative payee.

If the residential agency is the representative payee, the agency should continue to follow Social Security and OPWDD guidelines, especially in the use, provision of and accounting for personal allowance.

If the individual is on leave from the residence for an extended period during the COVID emergency, the residential agency should ensure the individual has their CBIC (Common Benefit Identification Card) with them as the CBIC is used to access Medicaid and SNAP benefits, which should be used only for the individual. Please contact your local Department of Social Services (in NYC, call 311), should a new card need to be issued.

Residential billing for retainer days is contained in other OPWDD guidance

at: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/providers/home-and-community-based-services-waiver>.

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