



# DP EXPRESS

*Spring 2019*



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## HOW TO CHANGE A SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY PAYEE

A representative payee for a Social Security Disability beneficiary is someone that will manage the beneficiary's money. The beneficiary can choose who that person will be but will be subjected to the Social Security Administration's (SSA) approval. SSA will conduct a background check to make sure the chosen payee have not committed any crimes against SSA and that the chosen payee has not previously misused someone else's Social Security benefits. The beneficiary needs to make sure that person chosen as payee is someone who can be trusted in handling their finances. The person who is chosen is also responsible for attending Social Security meetings regarding the beneficiary's eligibility for benefits.

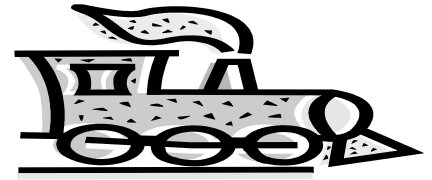
What happens if a beneficiary needs to change or appoint a new representative payee? First there is a need to give adequate reason for changing a payee. To request a change, go to the local SSA office and they will provide a form to be filled out and any guidance if necessary. If possible, take the person you want as a new payee to SSA. They will need to verify the new payee's identity with a picture identification and a Social Security card. SSA will need to also verify that the new payee is willing to assume the responsibilities, which include: helping the beneficiary pay bills, buy groceries and in most cases making sure the beneficiary has some discretionary money after immediate needs are handled. The payee is also responsible for reporting any changes in the beneficiary's condition or income to SSA.

## FEATURED CHARACTERS WITH HEARING LOSS

Hearing loss is far more prevalent than many people realize. Being able to see authentic characters with hearing loss portrayed in popular movies and on mainstream television programs better reflects the makeup of society and helps to increase awareness that having hearing loss is merely one characteristic of interesting, complicated and compelling individuals. Here is a listing of movies and TV shows that features characters with hearing loss: A Quiet Place, Wonderstruck, Quantico, The River Wild, Children of a Lesser God, The Silent Child, Mr. Holland's Opus, Music Within, West Wing and Switched at Birth. A Quiet Place, Wonderstruck, Quantico, Children of a Lesser God and Switched at Birth did cast actors with authentic hearing loss.



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## SUMMER INTERNSHIP AT NCIL

Each semester, the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) hosts up to 2 internship positions at their office in Washington, DC. The Policy Internship Program provides real Washington policy experience to participants at a highly respected national organization. Interns gain valuable experience in the nation's capital and build skills necessary to be ideal candidates for positions at NCIL, CILs and other advocacy organizations around the country.

The NCIL Policy Internship Program is open to students and individuals pursuing a career in a field relevant to NCIL interests, particularly Independent Living and disability advocacy. Candidates must have a strong interest in disability rights and basic knowledge of the legislative process. Although not a requirement, preference shall be given to individuals with disabilities. The program lasts approximately 12 weeks and interns are required to work at least 10-15 hours each week.

For more information about the NCIL Policy Internship program, visit [ncil.org/jobs/ncilinternships](http://ncil.org/jobs/ncilinternships). To apply, please email a cover letter, resume, and one letter of recommendation to Lindsay Baran at [lindsay@ncil.org](mailto:lindsay@ncil.org). **To be considered for the summer internship program, your application must be received by Monday, April 1, 2019.**

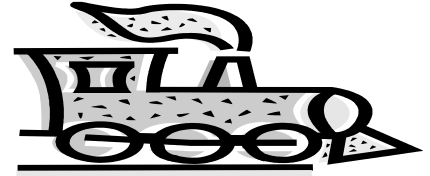
## FREE INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

If you have not filed your 2018 tax return, there is still time for tax assistance at no cost. Moderate and low income individuals and families can once again have their income tax returns prepared for free by UNC Asheville volunteers as part of the IRS VITA (Voluntary Income Tax Assistance) program. UNC Asheville's VITA service, now in its ninth year, will be available from 10:30 a.m.— 3 p.m. on Saturdays through April 6 (except for March 16), at the Pack Memorial Library, 67 Haywood Street in Asheville.

UNC Asheville's student VITA volunteers are trained in protecting confidentiality, in tax laws and procedures as part of service-learning courses taught by Porter and by UNC Asheville Lecturer in Accounting Carol Hughes. To ensure accuracy, all tax returns are reviewed by specially trained student workers employed as assistant site managers.



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## UPDATE REQUIREMENTS FOR AIRLINE CUSTOMERS WITH SERVICE AND SUPPORT DOGS

In compliance with the Air Carrier Access Act, Delta provides in-cabin travel for service and support animals without charge. The guidelines, effective March 1, require that all customers traveling with a service or support animal show proof of health or vaccinations 48 hours in advance. In addition to the current requirement of a letter prepared and signed by a doctor or licensed mental health professional, those with psychiatric service animals and emotional support animals will also need to provide a signed document confirming that their animal can behave to prevent untrained, sometimes aggressive household pets from traveling without a kennel in the cabin. These measures are intended to help ensure that those customers traveling with a trained service or support animal will no longer be at risk of untrained pets attacking their working animal, as has previously been reported.

Customers traveling with a trained service animal will be required to submit a signed Veterinary Health Form and/or an immunization record (current within one year of the travel date) for their animal to Delta's Service Animal Support Desk via Delta.com at least 48 hours in advance of travel.

Customers traveling with an emotional support animal or psychiatric service animal will be required to submit a signed Veterinary Health Form and/or an immunization record (current within one year of the travel date), an Emotional Support/Psychiatric Service Animal Request form which requires a letter prepared and signed by a doctor or licensed mental health professional and a signed Confirmation of Animal Training form to Delta's Service Animal Support Desk via Delta.com at least 48 hours in advance of travel.

**United joins Delta Air Lines and Spirit Airlines** in setting more restrictions on emotional support animals. Those two airlines require at least 48 hours' notice to bring an emotional support or psychiatric service animal on a flight. They also require more documentation. **American Airline's** new rules went into effect July 1, 2018 and require passengers to provide three forms of documentation 48 hours before a flight for any emotional support or psychiatric service animal. Guidelines for service/support animals are posted on the website for each airline.

It was necessary to tighten the rules because too many passengers were taking advantage of lax government rules regarding the transport of these animals and in many cases, claiming their regular pets as emotional support animals, which fly for free.

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## **DISABILITY PARTNERS EXPRESS**



### **ARRIVAL OF SPRING**

Now that spring is just around the corner, flu season may be still hanging around since activity can last until late May. Also, during this change of season, temperatures can fluctuate, which can be a factor causing an illness such as a cold. There is still a need to take care and do what needs to be done to avoid becoming sick. If you do happen to become sick with either a cold or flu or anything that could be contagious, please stay home to prevent passing it on to others. This includes coming to DisAbility Partners for events such as classes and potluck for we may have attendees who may be more susceptible to catching viruses. **PLEASE not only take care of yourself but take care of others as well!**