

Insert for the Record – page 58:

All representative payees (except for certain State mental institutions), including State Foster Care agencies, are required to submit an annual report accounting for the use of beneficiary funds. In addition to these annual reports, we conduct several other reviews to monitor the performance of agencies that serve as payees for our beneficiaries. These include periodic site reviews of agencies that serve 50 or more beneficiaries, reviews of payees not scheduled or selected for a periodic site review, and targeted reviews conducted in response to a “trigger” event such as a beneficiary or third party complaint of benefit mishandling.

We provide ongoing education and support to individuals and organizations that serve as payees. We provide our field personnel with updated program instructions that help them conduct thorough reviews and address cases of misuse correctly. We recently updated the “Guide for Organizational Representative Payees” to provide more information about how to manage benefits and we keep our representative payee website up to date with useful information for payees.

In general, our experience with State foster care agencies that serve as payee has been good. Our review of their reports shows that they use the benefits they receive properly – to meet the needs of the child. We promptly and thoroughly investigate any problems, and take necessary action based on what we find in those investigations.