



Coordinating Payees with the Social Security Administration

May 10, 2007

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board
844 North Rush Street
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1430.5 General

When the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) is paying both a railroad retirement annuity and a social security benefit, the payee must be the same. Operations will attempt to resolve any payee discrepancies because the check will be combined. These discrepancies are discovered when the Social Security Administration (SSA) first certifies a benefit to the RRB for payment.

In addition to resolving representative payee discrepancies, RRB-SSA representative payee coordination in the selection process can enlarge the number of prospective representative payee's RRB has to choose from. For example, SSA's field offices utilize social service agencies as representative payees in cases where a relative cannot be located. By contacting SSA's local field office, the RRB field office can establish contacts with area agencies which may be suitable representative payees.

1430.10 Social Security Administration Has Representative Payee - Railroad Retirement Board Does Not Have Representative Payee

1430.10.1 Operations Actions

Operations will initially accept the Social Security Administration's (SSA) representative payee determination in cases in which the RRB is paying benefits directly to an annuitant. Both SS and RRA benefits will be paid in a combined payment to SSA's payee.

Operations will provide the field office with the name and address of SSA's payee and request the field office to initiate representative payee development action. Payments will continue to SSA's payee unless you develop information indicating misuse of funds by that payee or other information indicating that SSA's payee is unfit to serve in that capacity.

1430.10.2 Field Actions

Operations will provide the field office the name and address of the representative payee selected by SSA and request that you contact the payee to initiate development action.

If the payee is acceptable according to the standards in FOM-I-1420.5, set up a representative payee file, issue the proper informational booklet to the payee, explain the responsibilities of the payee under the Railroad Retirement Act and secure Form AA-5 and the proper certification form as indicated in FOM-I-1420.20.3.



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If you determine that the payee is unacceptable, also determine if the annuitant is receiving the proceeds of his or her payment. Follow instructions in FOM-I-1415.15. Send a memorandum to Operations indicating the reasons SSA's payee is unacceptable and if the annuity should be suspended. If there is an acceptable payee in your area, include that person's name and address in the memorandum. Operations will submit change of payee recommendations to SSA for approval.

1430.15 RRB Has Representative Payee - SSA Does Not Have Representative Payee

1430.15.1 Operations' Actions

If the railroad annuity is in pay status with a representative payee and the Social Security Administration (SSA) certifies social security benefit payments directly to the beneficiary, Operations will pay the social security benefit to the RRB representative payee and send payee selection information to SSA. SSA will generally accept the RRB payee. If SSA insists on paying the beneficiary directly, Operations will request that you investigate the beneficiary's competence.

1430.15.2 Field Actions

Investigate the beneficiary's competence as set forth in FOM-I-1415.10.

- A. Beneficiary competent - Take action to discharge the payee and close your representative payee file. Notify Operations of your decision.
- B. Beneficiary incompetent - Include your findings in a memorandum to Operations; Operations will forward this information to SSA. Operations will pay both railroad and social security benefits to the RRB representative payee unless your investigation reveals that a new payee is needed.

1430.20 Railroad Retirement Board And Social Security Administration Have Different Representative Payees

1430.20.1 Operations' Actions

If the railroad annuity is in pay status with a representative payee, and the Social Security Administration (SSA) certifies an social security benefit payment to a different representative payee, Operations will hold up the certification of the social security benefit pending a field office investigation. The railroad annuity will continue to be paid to the representative payee selected by the RRB. Operations will request you to reconcile the discrepancy and accept SSA's payee, if possible.



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1430.20.2 Field Actions

Investigate to determine which payee should be selected to receive the annuitant's combined railroad/social security payments. Use the payee selection criteria set forth in FOM-I-1420.5. When the representative payee is selected, a Form Letter RL-107, "Advance Notice of Representative Payee Selection," must be released to the annuitant.

- A. Social Security Administration's representative payee is accepted - Set up a new Form G-99b. Issue the proper informational Forms RB-5, and RB-5b to the new representative payee; explain the representative payee's responsibilities under the Railroad Retirement Act and secure Form AA-5 and the proper certification form as indicated in FOM-I-1420.20.3. Fifteen days after the release of the Form Letter RL-107, prepare a FAST-COA transaction to change the payee. Notify Operations of the representative payee selection by e-mail or memorandum.

Operations will then pay the combined railroad/social security benefit to the same payee.

- B. SSA's representative payee is not acceptable - Include your findings in a memorandum to Operations and state the reasons you believe SSA's payee is unacceptable. Operations will send this information to SSA for its decision.