

## Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)

You are eligible for PABSS services if:

You are a Georgian with a disability who receives Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, and

1. You need information about how working or increasing your work-related earnings will affect your benefits, or
2. You are having trouble getting vocational rehabilitation or other employment-related services and supports you need in order to work including concerns you may have with your employer about reasonable accommodations, or
3. You are experiencing a barrier to employment. Barriers to employment may also include accommodation at the workplace, need for assistive technology, transportation issues, health related issues, and discrimination.



Jerome Lawrence, an artist and his work

Georgia Advocacy Office, Inc.  
150 E. Ponce de Leon Avenue, Suite 430  
Decatur, Georgia 30030

# RIGHT TO WORK

Georgia  
Advocacy  
Office, Inc.

Protection and  
Advocacy for  
Beneficiaries of  
Social Security  
(PABSS)Program

The Georgia Advocacy Office, Inc. provides information and assistance to people who:

- Are segregated to a sheltered workshop and want competitive employment.
- Are transitioning from high school into the workforce.
- Have a Medicaid waiver and want to maximize on the employment support.
- Need accommodations in post-secondary education or vocational training.
- Need accommodations in the workplace.
- Are experiencing workplace discrimination.
- Are experiencing a dispute regarding vocational rehabilitation services or other Employment Network providers.

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## Personal Stories of Going to Work

I am 18 years old. I applied for a job at a local grocery chain. I was told that I would not be able to work there because of my disability. I contacted the Georgia Advocacy Office and they helped me. They investigated my claim for discrimination and contacted the local grocery chain to advise them of their responsibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act. I have graduated from High School and now work for this local grocery chain. Without Protection and Advocacy to assist with removing this barrier, my position at this grocery chain may not have been possible.

I was discriminated against by my employer. Due to my disability, my supervisor doubted my ability to perform my job and gave me a lesser position even though I had successfully passed all of the training requirements with high marks. I contacted the Georgia Advocacy Office and we were able to resolve the issue reasonably. My employer learned a few things about working with people with disabilities.

I love people so much that I want to help them. I want to provide services to youth in my community. I got off to a rocky start because communication between Vocational Rehabilitation and a local community entity chosen to help me achieve my goal broke down. The Georgia Advocacy Office helped me to facilitate a meeting and establish communication. As a result, I am now working towards my life long dream of having a business that gives back to youth who live in my community through motivational speaking.

## What do we do?

### PABSS staff provides:

#### **Advocacy**

We advocate for Social Security beneficiaries who want to return to work. We help you keep your job, obtain services from Employment Networks, and get the community supports and services you need to obtain or keep a job.

#### **Information and Referral**

We provide information and referral to community service providers, employers, beneficiaries, families, and disability support groups.

#### **Individual Advocacy**

We assist beneficiaries, employers and community service agencies with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) workplace accommodations and disability-related issues.

#### **Education**

We provide training to individuals and groups on Return to Work, Medicaid and Medicare supports, and the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999.