

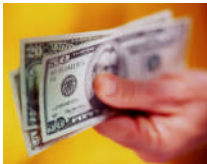
Using a Credit Card with a Golden State Pooled Trust Account

The following information is meant as guidance only and not a substitute for legal counseling



The Dilemma in Making Distributions from a Special Needs Trust

- Any cash given directly to a SSI recipient will reduce the benefit dollar for dollar
- Services and exempt resources given directly to a benefits recipient does not cause a reduction in benefits.



Example – Betty Needs a Dress

- Betty is a beneficiary of the Golden State Pooled Trust and receives SSI, IHSS and Medi-Cal.
- She would like to purchase a dress at her favorite clothing store.



Reimbursements Do Not Work

- If Betty purchases the dress and submits a reimbursement request for cash, the reimbursement will cause a dollar for dollar reduction in her benefits even though the purchase was for an exempt resource.



Reimbursements Do Not Work Debit Cards Are Treated As Cash

- This would also include her using a debit card and having her trust account reimburse her debit card account.



So How Can We Get Betty Her Dress?

- She could
 - have someone else purchase the dress and her account could reimburse the purchaser
 - purchase the dress online and have her trust account pay the invoice
 - purchase the dress with a credit card and have her account pay the credit card invoice.



What Does SSA Say? Disbursements for Credit Card Bills

POMS SI 01120.201 d.



- If a trust pays a credit card bill for the trust beneficiary, whether the individual receives income depends on what was on the bill.

What Does SSA Say? Disbursements for Credit Card Bills

POMS SI 01120.201 d.

- If the bill includes non-food, non-shelter items, the individual usually does not receive income as the result of the payment unless the item received would not be a totally or partially excluded non-liquid resource the following month.



What Does SSA Say? Disbursements for Credit Card Bills

POMS SI 01120.201 d.



- If the trust pays for food or shelter items on the bill, the individual will generally be charged with in-kind support and maintenance up to the PMV.
- See video on paying rent for more information

What Does SSA Say? Disbursements for Credit Card Bills

POMS SI 01120.201 d.



- For example, if the credit card bill includes restaurant charges, payment of those charges results in ISM.
- If the bill also includes purchase of clothing, payment for the clothing is not income.

<p>Amount That Can Be Paid Without Reducing SSI</p> <p>Total Due \$125.24</p> <p>Food - 30.55</p> <p>Total \$94.69</p>	<p>Your First Bank</p> <p>CREDIT CARD STATEMENT</p> <p>SEND PAYMENT TO Box 1234 Anytown, USA</p>																																	
	<p>ACCOUNT NUMBER 4125-233-412 NAME John Doe STATEMENT DATE 2/13/01 PAYMENT DUE DATE 3/09/01</p> <p>CREDIT LINE \$1200.00 CREDIT AVAILABLE \$1074.76 NEW BALANCE \$125.24 MINIMUM PAYMENT DUE \$20.00</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>REFERENCE</th> <th>POSTED</th> <th>ACTIVITY SINCE LAST STATEMENT</th> <th>AMOUNT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>413087382</td> <td>1/25</td> <td>PAYMENT THANK YOU</td> <td>-168.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>32F349883</td> <td>1/12</td> <td>RECORD RECYCLER ANYTOWN USA</td> <td>14.83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>89A302022</td> <td>1/13</td> <td>REPERFORMA REST ANYTOWN USA</td> <td>30.55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8034FJD32</td> <td>1/18</td> <td>GREAT EXFECTORATIONS BXG CITY USA</td> <td>27.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>84RT3292A</td> <td>1/20</td> <td>DZHO-GEL PETROLEUM ANYTOWN USA</td> <td>22.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>873068321</td> <td>2/09</td> <td>SHEETS 'N SUCH TOWNVILLEUSA</td> <td>40.10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	REFERENCE	POSTED	ACTIVITY SINCE LAST STATEMENT	AMOUNT	413087382	1/25	PAYMENT THANK YOU	-168.80	32F349883	1/12	RECORD RECYCLER ANYTOWN USA	14.83	89A302022	1/13	REPERFORMA REST ANYTOWN USA	30.55	8034FJD32	1/18	GREAT EXFECTORATIONS BXG CITY USA	27.50	84RT3292A	1/20	DZHO-GEL PETROLEUM ANYTOWN USA	22.24	873068321	2/09	SHEETS 'N SUCH TOWNVILLEUSA	40.10				
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<p>Please Note</p> <p>If a request is made to pay a previous balance, we must know what the previous balance purchased before we can authorize payment of the invoice</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Previous Balance (*)</td> <td>168.80</td> <td>Current Amount Due</td> <td>125.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Purchases (*)</td> <td>125.24</td> <td>Amount Past Due</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cash Advances (*)</td> <td></td> <td>Amount Over Credit Line</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Payments (*)</td> <td>168.80</td> <td>Minimum Payment Due</td> <td>20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Credits (*)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FINANCE CHARGES (*)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Late Charges (*)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>NEW BALANCE (*)</td> <td>125.24</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>FINANCE CHARGE SUMMARY PURCHASES 125.24 ADVANCES 0.0548 For Customer Service Call: 1-800-XXX-XXXX Periodic Rate 1.65% 0.0548 For Lost or Stolen Card, Call: 1-800-XXX-XXXX Annual Percentage Rate 19.80% 19.80% 24-Hour Telephone Numbers</p> <p><small>Please make check or money order payable to Your First Bank. Include account number on front.</small></p>		Previous Balance (*)	168.80	Current Amount Due	125.24	Purchases (*)	125.24	Amount Past Due		Cash Advances (*)		Amount Over Credit Line		Payments (*)	168.80	Minimum Payment Due	20.00	Credits (*)				FINANCE CHARGES (*)				Late Charges (*)				NEW BALANCE (*)	125.24		
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GOLDEN STATE POOLED TRUST—PAYMENT REQUEST

Beneficiary Name: BENE SAMPLE
 Beneficiary Advocate: Bencadvocate Sample
 Beneficiary Advocate Contact Information: Email bencadvoc@esmail.com
 Day 925.280.1101 Evening 925.280.1003

First, you need to remember that we will carefully review your request to make sure that it does not change your benefits—please let us know if there are any changes in your benefits. There may be times when we will deny your request if it will cause a problem in a reduction or termination of your benefits. If that happens, we will call you and talk about it.

Second, we can make payments out of your account, but only for your "sole benefit" meaning only for yourself. There are the guidelines that we must follow as a trustee so if we deny or question a request, it is ultimately for your best interest.

Now that you understand this, here's what you need to do:

1. Give us the information we need to make the payment.
 - Is this a Recurring Expense? How often will the expense recur? _____
 - Who should the check be payable to? Your First Bank
 - Where do you want us to mail the check? Account # (if any) 4125-233-412
 - Street Address PO BOX 1234 City ANYTOWN State CA ZIP 90000
 - How much should we pay? 94.69 What is the purpose of this disbursement? CREDIT CARD PAYMENT
 - Telephone number 1-800-XXX-XXXX
 - Anything special that we should note in the check memo section? _____
2. Gather the backup paperwork—the bill, invoice, receipts. If you are asking us to pay a credit card bill, we need all the original receipts, so we know how much we can pay and if it will jeopardize your benefits. Payment will be delayed if we do not have this paperwork.
3. Please fax this payment request form along with the documents from #2 above.

Our fax number is 877-336-3096

By signing this payment request, I acknowledge that it is for the sole benefit of BENE SAMPLE and understand that GSPF has the discretion to pay in full, deny, or make partial payments of the request. The beneficiary give us is the only person who can make this request.

Beneadvoc Sample Date 8/22/09
 Beneadvocate Sample, Beneficiary Advocate

Credit Card Statement Detail

Item #	Date Posted	Activity OR Vendor	Description	Amount	Service NOT INCOME	Household and Personal EXEMPT RESOURCES	Amount to Pay	No Reimbursement Requested OR DENIED
1	1/25/2009	Payment						
2	1/15/2009	Record Recycler	Service	14.83	14.83		14.83	
3	1/15/2009	Perforama Rest	Restaurant Beneficiary - Food	30.55				30.55
4	1/18/2009	Great Expectations	Kitchen Curtains	27.50		27.50	27.50	
5	1/21/2009	Dino-Gel Petroleum	Auto Fuel	12.26	12.26		12.26	
6	2/9/2009	Shirts 'n' Such	Clothing for Beneficiary	40.10		40.10	40.10	
PURCHASES				125.24	27.09	67.60	94.69	30.55

Remember – Sole Benefit Rule



- Remember – the Golden State Pooled Trust may only make disbursements that are for the sole benefit of the beneficiary in accordance with Federal and State law.
- Example – Betty would like to use her account to buy a gift for her son’s birthday.

Will GSPT Pay Everything On A Credit Card Bill?



- The Golden State Pooled Trust must by law exercise discretion over distributions
- Having a distribution plan on file will allow preauthorization of purchases.
- When in doubt, contact Golden State Pooled Trust before you make the purchase.

Will GSPT Pay Everything On A Credit Card Bill?



- The Golden State Pooled Trust will not'
 - make distributions that are not for the sole benefit of the beneficiary
 - pay for items that are illegal such as illegal drugs or prostitution

Will GSPT Pay Everything On A Credit Card Bill?



- The Golden State Pooled Trust will not'
 - pay for food or shelter for SSI recipients unless the beneficiary or beneficiary advocate acknowledges that they have a duty to inform SSA that they have received food and shelter and that their SSI will likely be reduced.
 - The reduction for 2009 is \$244.66 and will increase slightly in 2010

How Can You Help The Process



- In order for the Distribution Reviewer to authorize payment of credit card bill, the Reviewer must be able to identify what the purchases were for.
- Methods of identifying purchase
 - Receipts (preferred).
 - Witten declaration.
 - Reviewer will call the beneficiary advocate.
