

Amend CSHB 215 (house committee printing) by adding the following appropriately numbered SECTION to the bill and renumbering subsequent SECTIONS of the bill accordingly:

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. Subchapter A, Chapter 264, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 264.0112 to read as follows:

Sec. 264.0112. NOTICE REGARDING CERTAIN BENEFITS FOR WHICH DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY FOR CHILD. (a) In this section, "legal representative" means the child's attorney, the child's attorney ad litem, or another individual appointed by a court to represent the legal interests of the child.

(b) For a child in the department's conservatorship who receives or is eligible to receive benefits or services for which a representative payee or fiduciary is required, the department shall immediately provide notice to the child through the child's legal representative regarding:

(1) any application for United States Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits under 42 U.S.C. Section 1381 et seq., or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits under 42 U.S.C. Section 401 et seq. made on the child's behalf;

(2) if the department serves as the representative payee or in any other fiduciary capacity for the child, any application to become representative payee for the child's United States Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits under 42 U.S.C. Section 1381 et seq., or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits under 42 U.S.C. Section 401 et seq.;

(3) any decisions or communications from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Social Security Administration regarding an application described by Subdivision (1); and

(4) any appeal or other action requested by the department regarding an application for benefits described by Subdivision (1).

(c) If the department serves as the representative payee or otherwise receives United States Department of Veterans Affairs

benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits under 42 U.S.C. Section 1381 et seq., or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits under 42 U.S.C. Section 401 et seq. on the child's behalf, the department shall provide the following information to the child through the child's legal representative before each placement review hearing:

(1) the amount of benefit funds received on the child's behalf since the most recent notification to the child's legal representative and the date the benefits were received;

(2) information regarding the child's assets and resources, including the child's benefits, insurance, cash assets, trust accounts, earnings, and other resources;

(3) an accounting of the disbursement of benefit funds, including the date, amount, and identification of the payee; and

(4) information regarding each request by the court appointed special advocate for the child, the child's legal representative, or the child's caregiver for disbursement of funds and a statement regarding the department's reason for not granting the request if the request was not granted.