

United States
Office of Personnel Management
 Retirement Operations
 Boyers, PA 16017

Information Necessary for a Competency Determination

An **original** or a **certified copy** of a court order appointing a guardian or fiduciary to handle the affairs of the individual should be submitted so that the Office of Personnel Management can determine whether the applicant is or was mentally incompetent or otherwise unable to handle his or her financial or other affairs. Uncertified photocopies are not acceptable. The court order should cover the entire period of time which is in question for this determination and should address whether the alleged incompetency occurred in the past or is currently present.

If no guardian or fiduciary is appointed by a court, please provide the information described in **both** A and B below.

- A. A statement from the physician or other licensed health practitioner who has been treating the individual. *(The individual or his representative is responsible for any cost incurred in obtaining this documentation.)* The physician's or other licensed health practitioner's statement should cover, but not be limited to, the time period in question for this competency determination and should address whether the alleged incompetency occurred in the past or is currently present. The physician or other licensed health practitioner should provide, on his or her letterhead stationery, the information listed below. **Please provide a copy of this form to the physician or other licensed health practitioner.**
- History of the specific medical condition(s) which caused the individual to be incompetent, including symptoms, physical findings, results of laboratory studies, and therapy *(together with the response to therapy)*. Please provide copies of all reports of laboratory studies, in the case of psychiatric disorders, the discharge summaries of hospitalizations and operative reports.
 - The diagnosis should be in accordance with International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems *(ICD)* terminology or, in the case of psychiatric disorders, with Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders *(DSM)* V criteria.
 - The duration of the medical condition(s), including the date the condition caused incompetency and the date or expected date of full or partial recovery.
- B. Affidavits from at least two persons who know the facts concerning the individual's competency, preferably one from a member of the individual's immediate family and one from a non-family member. The persons making the affidavits should state:
- The relationship to, and amount of contact with, the individual during the relevant time period.
 - What actions or incidents were personally observed which would show whether the individual's condition interfered with the ability to handle personal affairs, and how often these were observed.
 - The reason why a guardian or fiduciary was not appointed by the court to handle the affairs of the individual.
 - Who has been handling the individual's affairs.

(Affidavits must be sworn to or affirmed before a notary public or other officer who is authorized by law to administer oaths.)

Send the documents to the above address. Be sure to include the claim number shown at the top of form RI 20-7, Representative Payee Application, with this correspondence.

Warning

Affidavits and other evidence are subject to verification by personal investigation. Any intentionally false statement, willful concealment of a material fact, or use of a writing or document knowing the same to contain a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry is a violation of the law punishable by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both. (18 U.S.C. 1001)

Public Burden Statement

The public reporting burden to complete this information collection is estimated at 60 minutes per response, including time for reviewing the collected instructions, searching data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing of the collected information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the Office of Personnel Management, Retirement Services Publications Team at RSPublicationsTeam@opm.gov. Current information regarding this collection of information -- including all background materials -- can be found at <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain> by using the search function to enter either the title of the collection or 3206-0140.