

MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF MEDICAID

Eligibility Policy and Procedures Manual

304.06.02 MEDICAID CLIENT IS BENEFICIARY

Restricted Access to Principal

If the client is the beneficiary of the trust and the client's access to the trust principal is restricted, meaning only the trustee or the court can invade the principal; the principal of the trust does not count as a resource to the client. Count all payments made to, or on behalf of, the client from a restricted trust as income.

Unrestricted Access to Principal

Count the trust as a resource if the client is trust beneficiary and has unrestricted access to the principal of the trust. In this situation, payments from the trust to the beneficiary are not counted as income since the funds have already been counted as a resource. The payments from the trust are conversion of a resource.

Authority for Discretion by Trustee

The authority for discretion by the trustee in the use of trust funds, including invasion of the principal for support and maintenance of the beneficiary, does not mean that the principal is available to the client and, as such, it should not be counted as a resource. Only the income or resource(s) that is available to the client via the trustee's discretion count for purposes of determining eligibility.

Trustee has Full Discretion

In cases where the trustee has "full discretion" in the use of trust funds, the trustee must specify, by way of a written and signed statement for the case record, what arrangements exist or will be made to release funds or resources for the client's use.

As outlined above, any payments made to, or on behalf of, the client are counted as income unless the trustee states the client has unrestricted access to use of the trust funds; in which case, the funds are a countable resource.