

Maryland ABLE User's Guide

Changes April 2024

These are changes that were to the Maryland ABLE program in 2023 and 2024. When you read the User's Guide, look at this information. The changes effect pages 23-24.

- **Who can open and manage an account has changed.**
- **There are now safeguards for the use of supported decision-making.**
- **The amount of money you can put into your ABLE account has increased.**

Below we will address each change.

Who can open and manage an account now?

If you open or manage your account on your own, you have three options:

- You can manage your account on your own; or
- You can give someone power of attorney for your account; or
- You can choose someone else to open and manage your account for you.

If you are NOT able to open or manage your own account, the following list of people can help you manage your account. The people that can help must be in this order:

- Power of attorney. A power of attorney is a legal document that gives someone the power to make certain decisions for you.
- Legal guardian or conservator. A conservator is someone a judge has named to manage another person's money.
- Spouse
- Parent
- Sibling
- Grandparent
- A Social Security Representative Payee

If one of these people wants to help manage your account, they will have to check a box when they enroll you in the ABLE program that says they are one of these eligible people.

What are the safeguards you have to show to use supported decision-making?

The person that helps you use support decision-making is called a supporter. If a supporter is helping you open and manage your ABLE account, you will have to check a box that says:

- You have not had a peace or protective order against the supporter.
- There is not a civil or criminal order stopping them from having contact with you.
- They have not gotten in legal trouble for financial exploitation. That means there has never been a case in civil or criminal court (lawsuit) that says the supporter tricked someone or forced someone to give them their money.

How much money can you put into your ABLE account each year?

Starting January 1, 2024, up to **\$18,000** can be deposited into your account.