

## About the Independent Living Fund

The ILF may make payments to disabled people to be used towards the cost of appointing personal assistants or using a care agency, to provide the personal care and domestic assistance they need to live at home. To get payments from the ILF, you need to meet certain conditions (see leaflet 1 for more information).

## Summary

This leaflet explains what you need to do if you go into hospital. If your stay in hospital is planned please tell us before you go into hospital. If your stay in hospital is unplanned, please tell us as soon as you can. If you are unable to tell us, please ask somebody else to tell us on your behalf.

If you use an agency, we will suspend payments from the day after you go into hospital. If however, you employ your personal assistant (PA) privately, we can carry on paying you for up to 4 weeks. We do this so that your PAs do not find another job whilst you are in hospital. Payments can be started again when you let us know you have gone home.

## Other formats

We can provide this leaflet in different formats, please contact our User Liaison Managers for more details.

## How to get in touch with us:

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or  
0115 9450700



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**This leaflet is not legal advice, and although it does not deal with your specific situation, it does set out your general obligations to the ILF. Any figures or references to documents are correct at the time of issuing. The ILF reserves the right to update this leaflet from time to time.**

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## Leaflet 14

## Going into hospital?



**This leaflet explains what happens to your ILF payments if you go into hospital**



**Independent  
Living Funds**

*Creating Choice for Disabled People*

## Going into hospital?

You **must** tell the ILF if you go into hospital because it may affect the amount of money you get.

You need to tell the ILF **every time** you go into hospital. We realise that you may not always be able to tell us straight away especially if you go into hospital in an emergency. Please tell us as soon as you can to avoid getting any payments from us that you would have to pay back.

If you cannot tell us yourself about going into hospital, please ask someone else to tell us on your behalf. You or someone else can write to us or phone us.

## What happens to my payments if I use a care agency or a personal assistant (PA) who is self-employed

If you use a care agency or your PA is self-employed, your money will be suspended from the day after you go into hospital.

The ILF does not carry on paying you because you do not need to pay for care while you are in hospital. Your ILF payments will only start again once you let us know you have gone home.

**If you go into hospital permanently, the ILF will stop your payments from the day after you go into hospital.**



## What happens to my payments if I employ a personal assistant and I go into hospital?

If you employ your PA, your money from the ILF will not be affected if you go into hospital for no more than 28 days. You still need to tell us you have gone into hospital but the money you get from us will stay the same.

A retainer payment is when we carry on paying you for up to 28 days when you are in hospital so that you can carry on paying your PA.

We pay this so you don't have to worry that your PA will find another job because they aren't getting paid.

When you tell us about going into hospital, we will ask you how long you think you will be there for.

If you are in hospital for more than 28 days, your ILF money will stop from the 29th day. If this happens we will write to you to let you know.

If your hospital admissions are frequent, you can receive a retainer payment for a maximum of 26 weeks a year.

## How do I get my payments started again?

If you have been in hospital and your ILF money has been stopped, we can start your payments again when you let us know you have gone home. Your payments can start on the first day you are back at home, or the first day you start having to pay for care, whichever is later.

To get your payments started again, all you need to do is to phone us and tell us—

- your name and your reference number
- the date you returned home.

You will then get your payments as normal. We will write to you to explain how much money you will get and when.



## Don't get into debt

It is very important that you let the ILF know if you go into hospital. If you do not tell us about a change it may lead to an overpayment. An overpayment means the ILF have paid you money you should not have had. You will have to pay this money back. If someone else deals with your money, please make sure they know they must tell us if there is any change in your circumstances as described in this leaflet or other ILF leaflets.