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Independent Living Skills (ILS) 0013 Personal Advocacy Level 4 (0 Units)

Prerequisite: Successful completion in Independent Living Skills 0012

Total Hours: 16 hours lecture

Prerequisite knowledge and skills: Before entering the course the student should be able to

1. explain how self-determination enhances his/her quality of life,
2. establish short and long-term goals,
3. utilize a basic problem-solving process and transfer skills to everyday life,
4. utilize a basic decision-making process and transfer skills to everyday life, and
5. utilize a basic negotiation process and transfer skills to everyday life.

Catalog Description: This course provides an overview of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits as well as the legal rights of people with developmental disabilities. An understanding of the laws and regulations that individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income and Social Security benefits must abide by are explored. Rights and responsibilities regarding housing, access, employment, education, Durable Power of Attorney and/or Conservator, as well as resources, will be covered.

Type of Class/Course: Non Credit

Texts: None

Additional Required Materials: videos, informational packets from Social Security California Department of Justice, *Legal Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, Sacramento, CA: CDOJ, 2006. Print.

Walling, Michael. *Managing Your SSI Benefits and Income Handbook*. Oxford, PA: Benefits Training and Consulting, 2008. Print.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to

1. calculate amount of monthly SSI benefits,
2. report earnings to Social Security,
3. discuss SSI work incentives with service coordinator,
4. appeal social security determination,
5. identify the legal responsibilities of a payee,
6. identify the effect that employment has on SSI benefits,
7. understand eligibility for MediCal/MediCare,
8. identify reasonable employer accommodation mandate,

9. identify basic elements of employment discrimination laws,
10. identify Title Five mandates,
11. identify the basic powers of a Durable Power of Attorney,
12. identify the procedure to conserve someone, and
13. identify the legal power of conservators.

Course Scope, Content, and Student Learning Outcomes:

Unit I            SSI and SSA

Learning Outcomes	Assessment
Understand and Utilize:	
A. SSI and SSA benefits determination information	In class exercises, homework, exams
B. SSI and SSA reporting responsibilities	In class exercises, homework, exams
C. Work incentive opportunities	In class exercises, homework, exams
D. The SSI and SSA appeal process	In class exercises, homework, exams
E. Resources	In class exercises, homework, exams

Unit II            Access, Work, and Educational Rights and Responsibilities

Learning Outcomes:	Assessment
Understand and Utilize:	
A. Knowledge of the American Disabilities Act	In class exercises, homework, exams
B. Housing rights and individual responsibilities	In class exercises, homework, exams
C. Employment rights and individual responsibilities	In class exercises, homework, exams
D. Access rights and individual responsibilities	In class exercises, homework, exams
E. Medical rights and individual responsibilities	In class exercises, homework, exams
F. Title 5 educational rights and individual responsibilities	In class exercises, homework, exams
G. Resources	In class exercises, homework, exams

Unit III            Powers and Duties of Durable Power of Attorney and Conservators

Learning Outcomes:	Assessment:
Understand and utilize:	
A. Durable Power of Attorney laws	In class exercises, homework, exams
B. Conservator procedures and legal ramifications of being conserved	In class exercises, homework, exams
C. Resources	In class exercises, homework, exams

**Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:**

The students will spend a minimum of 2 hours per week outside of their regular class time doing the following:

1. Studying
2. Completing homework exercises

**Methods of Instruction:**

1. Assigned exercises from textbook/workbook
2. Lecture
3. Group work
4. Discussion
5. Individual conference
6. Role play

**Methods of Evaluation:**

1. Class participation
2. Written homework
3. Quizzes
4. Oral evaluations
5. Exams