

What Is a Daily Money Manager, and How to Know If You Need One.

What is a Daily Money Manager (DMM)?

Daily money managers provide personal financial assistance to individuals who have difficulty in managing their personal monetary affairs. Their services range from organizing and inventorying financial and medical insurance papers, to assisting with writing out checks and monitoring/sustaining bank accounts.

Most DMMs provide the following services:

- Bill Paying Services – including contacting vendors and monitoring for accuracy.
- Preparing Checks for Signature - if needed (many individuals now use internet banking/bill paying options).
- Making Bank Deposits
- Balancing Checkbooks – including tracking and organizing bank statements.
- Organizing Mail, Paperwork, and Tax Documents
- Negotiating with Creditors
- Assistance with monitoring medical insurance – including medical claims assistance and interpreting paperwork.
- Provide referrals to other professionals such as: attorneys, certified public accountants, financial advisors, and health services professionals.

Some DMMs also provide:

- Small Business Bookkeeping
- Power of Attorney Services
- Downsizing or Move assistance – including paperwork associated with Skilled Nursing Care or Assisted Living facilities.
- Payroll preparation and organization
- Trust Administration

Who needs a Daily Money Manager?

We find that people of all ages have a need for Daily Money Management services. Our clients range from children to individuals in their elderly years. As an estimated 80 million individuals born between 1946 and 1964 become older the need for DMMs becomes greater due to the natural affects of aging. However, there are several other reasons a person may want to employ the services of a DMM. Our clients have chosen to use our services for the following reasons or circumstances: The mountain of bills and paperwork has become too overwhelming. They have experienced an illness, or an extended hospital stay. They don't have time to manage their personal finances or consistently incur late charges, or finance fees. They are unable to live within a specific budget. They are not able to reconcile their bank statements or balance their checkbooks. A disability has prevented them from being able to manage their financial affairs. They have lost a spouse who was the one who managed the finances. They either do not have a family member who is willing to help them with their finances or don't want a family member to be burdened with it. They have been exploited or taken advantage of in the past or are being exploited currently. We also have clients who just don't want to deal with their finances and would rather live and enjoy their lives without having the responsibility dealing with bills and money. These are only a few of the reasons why people have chosen to have a professional manage their finances and there are hundreds more.

Often we find that adult children of the elderly that contact us for DMM services because they feel that they do not have the time or do not desire to manage their parent's money. Or perhaps they live in another State and cannot reasonably perform these services for their parent.

Why would someone choose a DMM instead of having an attorney or Certified Public Accountant perform these tasks?

The main reason individuals choose to use a DMM as opposed to an attorney or CPA is because of cost. Most DMMs charge an hourly rate that is far less than those of an attorney or CPA. Once a budget is created and the preliminary information and desires of the client is obtained, most DMMs can perform their services in a few hours each month. It is cost effective and most individuals who use DMMs wonder how they ever managed without one.

Other reasons that individuals opt to use a DMM is because they continue to have an active role in their personal finances. DMMs meet with the individual or perform services over the phone together with the client. DMMs do not have signature status, or legal control over the individual's accounts or income. Therefore, the individual keeps control over their own finances but has a trusted case manager to help them with the items that they do not want to take on or can no longer perform due to a disability or other factors. Using a DMM allows a person to regain control over their financial matters and avoid guardianship or having to use a Power of Attorney.

The idea of having an unknown financial case manager involved in one's personal finances can be intimidating, but most people find that once they begin a relationship with a DMM they feel a sense of relief knowing their finances are back under control. The relationship is also one of trust, due to the fact that the individual is still "calling the shots" but they have professional assistance in doing so.

How do I know that the DMM that I choose is reputable?

It is recommended that you interview DMMs and choose one based on their philosophy and ethical position. It is also important to ask for personal references and testimonials from current/former clients. In addition the American Association of Daily Money Managers can help you locate members of their organization in your area. Members of the AADMM are held to a code of ethics that you can read at their website http://www.aadmm.com/code_of_ethics.htm. Benefit Payee Services, Inc. is a member of AADMM and is located in the members section under Courtney L. Smith (President): Organization: Benefit Payee Services, Inc.. We currently have offices located in Denver, CO and New Albany, IN (servicing the Louisville, KY/Southern IN areas).

As you can see there are a great number of benefits to having a DMM or acquiring their services for a loved one. If you would like to learn more about the DMM services that Benefit Payee Services, Inc. provides please visit our website www.benefitpayeeservices.com or contact us at:

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