VALLEY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CENTER

QA QUICK TIPS

When a SC identifies the need to spend down a consumer's TMS account, it is important that residential providers make it a priority to spend the money right away and certainly within the same month that the money is disbursed. The money should be logged into the P&I record and logged out as soon as possible for two reasons. First, providers should not maintain more than $200 cash per consumer at the facility. Second, and most importantly, if the consumer's overall balance (what is at home and what is in any other account belonging to the consumer such as TMS and/or bank accounts) adds to more than $2000, it can negatively impact Social Security and other benefits. Spend downs are done in order to maintain benefits without interruption as well as to meet the needs/wants of a consumer. It is not enough to simply deposit the check into a consumer's personal account. Spend the money quickly on the items that the consumer wants (as long as it is legal) and/or the planning team agrees are needed, and save receipts. Make sure you take the consumer with you on the shopping trip if at all possible.