

**REHABILITATION DIVISION: BVR / BSBVI**  
**Participant Services Policy Manual**  
**Section 28, Title: Inappropriate or Improper Use of VR**  
**Funds or If Fraud Occurs**

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**Inappropriate or Improper Use of VR Funds or If Fraud Occurs:**

Public funds should be used as intended by laws, regulations and policies.

By applying for services, the participant agrees to provide accurate financial information and abide by VR requirements related to the use of funds on their behalf.

When requesting funding for goods and services from VR, participants are expected to be honest and to utilize all services and goods provided in a responsible manner for VR purposes, and with the intent to complete an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) leading to successful employment or for the Older Individuals who are Blind program, the intent to achieve Individualized Written Independent Living Plan (IWILP) objectives and goals.

Participants should not use or allow others to use, goods and services purchased by VR in a manner that would make them unavailable for VR use or that would compromise the ability to use them in the manner intended.

The agency can recover funds for goods and services that are misused, purchased without authorization or agency approval, or that are obtained through fraud.

If VR pays for part of or in full for goods or services that the participant has financial participation responsibility, they are required to reimburse VR the costs. Failure to do so may be considered fraud.

If fraud occurs, it can damage the public trust in the VR program and in State Government. Fraud may exist when an individual knowingly and deliberately withholds, conceals or misrepresents information to obtain or attempt to obtain VR services or funding. Fraud includes but is not limited to:

- Intentionally reporting inaccurate income or sources of income;
- Knowingly acquiring goods or services funded by VR without the intent to use them primarily to meet IPE or ~~IPS~~ IWILP goals ~~and~~
- Theft of items purchased by VR-

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If goods and services are used inappropriately, improperly obtained or obtained through fraud, the participant will be required to return items or to reimburse VR funds spent on those goods or services. Failure to do so may result in suspension of services or case closure. In serious cases of fraud or intent to commit fraud, a report to law enforcement may be filed seeking criminal prosecution.

**Future Cases:**

Participants who've had a case closed due to improper use of VR funds or fraud, may reapply for services; however, if funds are still owed to VR, all future expenditures and services may be placed on hold until funds have been repaid.