



SSI At-a-Glance: What Happens When I Turn 18?

A Supplemental Security Income (SSI) child benefit will go through a review called the Age-18 Redetermination.

Adult Definition of Disability

The new decision will be based on the adult definition of disability. Some conditions are assumed to be disabling, others are not. In general, in order to qualify for SSI as an adult, your disability must:

1. significantly limit your ability to work;
2. be expected to last a year or more; and
3. prevent Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)*.



If medical and vocational reports fully support this, then SSI should continue.

*If you can work and earn more than the maximum Social Security allows (the SGA limit), they will not consider you disabled. For more information on earning limits, see www.socialsecurity.gov/oact/cola/sga.html.

What if my Benefits are Denied?

If Social Security decides at the Age-18 Redetermination that you do not meet the adult definition of disabled, your benefits will end after two (2) months.

After the denial, you must act quickly if you want to try to keep your benefit.

- You may **APPEAL** within 60 days. Follow the instructions to appeal in the denial notice or call Social Security's toll free number 800-772-1213;
AND
- You may also **CONTINUE YOUR SSI BENEFITS DURING THE APPEAL PROCESS** if you respond to Social Security **WITHIN 10 days**. **Be aware:** if all appeals are denied, your SSI will end and you will have to pay back the benefits paid to you during the appeal process, but you will have a right to appeal this, too.



What if I Want to Work?



During the Age-18 Redetermination, feel free to work! Any earnings you have will not be considered. In fact, if you are regularly attending school, you can earn up to \$1,780.00 per month or up to \$7,180.00 per year. (These figures are accurate as of 2016.) Be sure to tell Social Security about ALL the supports you are receiving to make work possible.



Before you turn 18, be sure to get updated medical and psychological evaluations that will clearly document the disability and how it limits your ability to work.

Seek help from members of your school transition team and get help with all these changes by contacting your local **Work Incentive and Planning Assistance (WIPA)** program at <http://www.vaaccses.org/wipa/> or call 1-877-822-2777.

Make sure you write down information about all of your work efforts and include all assistance you needed and used to get and keep work. dLCV has created a form called "Track Your Work History!" to help you keep track of your work. Keep this information updated and submit to Social Security when you apply and again if your benefits are denied.

See Social Security's brochure on the age-18 redetermination, work incentives, and services that help youth who receive SSI make the transition to adult life entitled: "What You Need to Know About Your Supplemental Security Income (SSI) When You Turn 18" <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11005.pdf>

Check out this resource on the Age 18 Redetermination process: www.worksforme-pa.org/webcast/documents/transitions/Age%2018%20Redetermination%20Handout.pdf.

And finally, make financial plans in case your SSI stops!



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