



TIPS When Applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Children

Financial Screening

When a child applies for SSI, SSA must first determine the family's income and resources. The Social Security Administration (SSA) calls this deeming. If the parent(s) have too much income or resources the child may not qualify for SSI or may receive a lower benefit even if the child meets the medical eligibility requirements. Here is SSA's guide on parental deeming:

<https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-deeming.htm>

Applying for SSI for a Child

Social Security does not offer an online application. The best way to apply for your child is to request an appointment to apply by going here:

<https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/>

After you submit this short online questionnaire you will receive a call from the local SSA office to schedule an appointment. Then you will receive a confirmation letter with the date and time of the appointment and a list of the information needed to apply. Be sure to gather this information before the appointment. Note: Usually SSA conducts this appointment by telephone.

What to Expect

- In general, SSA will expect a parent to supply information about the child's medical conditions, contact information for all treatment and other evidence to include doctors, hospitalizations, evaluations and other diagnostic results, therapies in-home or in facilities, medications, and their school records. Social Security does not require you to collect your child's records for this claim. You will sign a release form that gives SSA permission to collect them.
- To be medically eligible a child must prove they have an inability to function as their age-related peers in their home, school, and community.
- When you receive the **Function Report – Third Party** be sure to fill it out completely and provide examples of things your child cannot do, can only do in a

limited way, or for which they need help. Describe their symptoms and limitations as they exist on their worst day, not their best day. Use the “Remarks Section” to

- add any other information about their inability to perform daily activities and function in the family, the school, or the community. This form is due within 10-days of when you received it. Don't delay!
- To check on your child's case, or add new evidence, call the disability examiner at Disability Determination Services (DDS). The examiner's name and phone number is in the letter they send when they notify you they have received your child's application. Or, you can find the number to the closest DDS office using this web address: <https://www.vadds.virginia.gov/>.
- If SSA schedules a medical appointment for your child (at their expense) they must go but you can change to a more convenient time. If you need to cancel or reschedule call the DDS Examiner using the method above.
- Meet ALL deadlines.
- If denied, you may appeal. You may want to review the dLCV publication entitled: **“TIPS When Appealing a Social Security Disability Insurance or Supplemental Security Income Claim”**. This guide explains the appeal process and provides links to SSA's appeal forms. The denial letter will also state how to appeal.

Note: The disAbility Law Center of Virginia (dLCV) does not provide representation.