



**SOCIAL SECURITY
& VETERANS DISABILITY**
We Won't Take NO For An Answer®



APRIL 2014

**ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS
ABOUT DISABILITY AND SOCIAL
SECURITY'S REPRESENTATIVE
PAYMENT PROGRAM**

Welcome to our first official newsletter of spring! In this month's edition, we tackle two different but very important topics. Our first article explains the five-step process that each claim for Social Security Disability benefits will go through in the approval process. I think this will give you a good general overview of the process, but keep in mind that the majority of claims are denied on the first try. You can try to untangle the "red tape" yourself, or rely on an experienced law firm to help guide you through the process, including the necessary steps to file an appeal.

Our second article deals with the difficult situation of what to do when a friend or family member is not capable of managing the benefits they receive. Many people don't realize that there is help available in these situations. So we have included an overview of Social Security's Representative Payment Program, designed to help friends and family step in when a beneficiary is having difficulty controlling their money.

I hope you are enjoying a break from the long, cold winter, and I encourage you to spend as much time as possible enjoying the warmer days, and less time worrying about the fight to obtain the benefits you deserve. Our experienced, caring team of professionals is ready to help you do just that. Give us a call and let us know how we can help—we are always happy to hear from you.

Sincerely,

IN THIS ISSUE
Letter From Jan
SS Disability
Payment Program
Jan Dils Law Blog

JAN DILS
Social Security Disability
law blog

RECENT POSTS:

**Costs Involved in an
SSDI or SSI Case**

**Announcing the Jan
Dils March MVP**

Walk4Vets

**Debunking Forms: The
Application for
Disability Insurance
Benefits**



Like us on Facebook 

Want to keep up with all of the latest news or to get to know us better? Like us on Facebook!

HOW DOES SOCIAL SECURITY DECIDE IF YOU ARE DISABLED?

When you apply for disability benefits, Social Security uses a step-by-step process with five questions to approve or deny your claim.

Step 1: Are You Working?

If you are working in 2014 and your earnings average more than \$1,070 a month, you generally cannot be considered disabled. If you are not working, the decision process moves on to Step 2.

Step 2: Is Your Condition "Severe"?

Your condition must interfere with basic work-related activities for your claim to be considered.

If it does not, Social Security will determine that you are not disabled. If your condition does interfere with basic work-related activities, the process moves on to Step 3.

Step 3: Is Your Condition Found In The List Of Disabling Conditions?

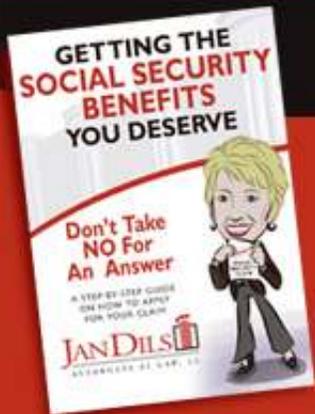
For each of the major body systems, Social Security maintains a **list of medical conditions** that are so severe they automatically mean that you are disabled. If your condition is not on the list, they will decide if it is of equal severity to a medical condition that is on the list. If it is, Social Security will find that you are disabled. If it is not, the process moves to Step 4.

Step 4: Can You Do The Work You Did Previously?

If your condition is severe but not at the same or equal level of severity as a medical condition on the list, then Social Security will determine if it interferes with your ability to do the work you did previously. If it does not, your claim will be denied. If it does, the process moves to Step 5.

Step 5: Can You Do Any Other Type Of Work?

Click to Request Your FREE Book!



Request a copy of Jan Dils easy-to-understand plan on how to apply for and win your benefits

Request a Book!

Connect with us on our social networks!



If you cannot do the work you did in the past, Social Security will see if you are able to adjust to other work. To make that determination, they will consider your medical conditions and your age, education, past work experience and any transferable skills you may have. If you cannot adjust to other work, your claim will be approved. If you can adjust to other work, your claim will be denied.

The screenshot shows the Social Security website's 'Medical/Professional Relations' section. The main heading is 'Disability Evaluation Under Social Security', followed by 'Part III - Listing Of Impairments'. The text explains that the Listing of Impairments describes, for each major body system, impairments considered severe enough to prevent an individual from doing any gainful activity. It details the criteria for Part A (adults age 18 and over) and Part B (children under age 18), noting that Part B criteria are used first for children. A footer note states that the absence of a listing-level impairment does not mean the individual is not disabled.

Source: <http://www.ssa.gov/dibplan/dqualify5.htm#a0=4>



SOCIAL SECURITY'S REPRESENTATIVE PAYMENT PROGRAM

Are you concerned that a family member or friend is incapable of managing or directing the management of their benefits? This can be

a difficult situation, but help is available. Social Security's Representative Payment Program provides financial management for the Social Security and SSI payments of benefit beneficiaries who are incapable of managing their Social Security or SSI payments. You can call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to request an appointment to discuss your concerns.

Generally, Social Security will look for family or friends to serve as representative payees. When friends or family are not able to serve as payees, Social Security looks for qualified organizations to be representative payees.

If you would like to learn more about the program, including responsibilities and how to become a representative payee, visit www.ssa.gov/payee/#sb=2 to view free webinar presentations.



Complete your payee
accounting online

Source: <http://www.ssa.gov/payee/#sb=2>

Jan Dils keeps you updated on Social Security disability benefits news and important issues that matter the most. We not only focus on Social Security Disability, we also provide legal assistance for Veterans Disability Benefits. We understand the claims process and specialize in making sure Veterans receive the proper representation needed for receiving benefits. For more

information on our Veterans Disability services, please visit www.fight4vets.com

FIGHT4VETS.com

**SOCIAL SECURITY
& VETERANS DISABILITY**
We Won't Take NO For An Answer®



PARKERSBURG | BECKLEY | CHARLESTON | HUNTINGTON | LOGAN | MORGANTOWN | CHARLOTTE

Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, handles Social Security disability and Veterans' disability claims for clients throughout West Virginia with offices located in Parkersburg-Beckley-Charleston-Huntington-Logan-Morgantown as well as one additional office located in Charlotte, North Carolina. But regardless of where you are located we are able to serve you or a family member Nationwide.

© 2014 by Jan Dils, Attorneys At Law, L.C. All rights reserved.
963 Market St
Parkersburg, WV 26101

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to susan@solesourcedesign.com by enewclient@jandils.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Try it FREE today.

Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, L.C. | 963 Market Street | Parkersburg | WV | 26101