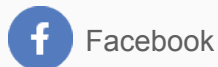


Jan Dils November Social Security Newsletter

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**PERSONAL INJURY
VETERANS DISABILITY
& SOCIAL SECURITY**
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It's hard to believe that the holiday season is upon us! Time certainly seems to fly by. But we do have some good year-end news for those receiving Social Security. Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) will increase 2-percent effective December 29, 2017. That means many of our clients will be receiving a "raise" to help keep up with cost-of-living increases. Hopefully that is welcome news going into the New Year.

The next article is a disability overview. At Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, we work to be a resource for the communities we are a part of. Have you wondered if you or a family member qualify? Disability benefits make a big difference in the lives of so many people. The article gets into the two government assistance programs. Beyond what's in the article, you might also want to have a greater understanding of benefits that fall into the category of Compassionate Allowances, which identify diseases and other medical conditions that, by definition, meet Social Security's standards for disability benefits. For a full list of Compassionate Allowances, go to www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances/.



[How Age Impacts A Social Security Claim](#)

[Everything You Need to Know About Medical Professionals](#)

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Of course, if you have any questions, know that we focus our practice almost exclusively on helping our clients get approval for their Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) – even after their applications for disability benefits have been denied. It's always an advantage to have a compassionate expert on your side. Feel free to reach out to us to answer any questions you may have.

Last, but certainly not least, we wish you the happiest of holidays and a wonderful New Year. We look forward to continuing to be your resource in areas of Social Security, Personal Injury and Veterans Disability Law. Peace be with you all!

Sincerely,



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Like us on Facebook!



**SOCIAL SECURITY ANNOUNCES
2.0 PERCENT BENEFIT INCREASE
FOR 2018**



Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for more than 66 million Americans will increase 2.0 percent in 2018, as announced by the Social Security Administration.

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

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**Contact a Jan Dils
Case Manager**

Email Address by Last Name

A-D

KFritz@jandils.com

Julie@jandils.com

E-L

CamyD@jandils.com

Danielle@jandils.com

M-R

Brooke@jandils.com

Joyce@jandils.com

S-Z

KCox@jandils.com

ARichard@jandils.com

Team Leader:

AmberS@jandils.com

The 2.0 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 61 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2018. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 29, 2017. (Note: some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits). The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$128,700 from \$127,200. Of the estimated 175 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2018, about 12 million will pay more because of the increase in the taxable maximum.

Information about Medicare changes for 2018, when announced, will be available at www.medicare.gov.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. To read more, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola.

Source: <https://www.ssa.gov/news/press/releases/#/print/10-2017-1>



To qualify for Social Security disability benefits, you must first have worked in jobs covered by Social Security. Then you must have a medical condition that meets Social Security's definition of disability. In general, Social Security pays monthly cash benefits to people who are unable to work for a year or more because of a disability.

Benefits usually continue until you are able to work again on a regular basis. There are also a number of special rules, called "work incentives," that provide continued benefits and health care coverage to help you make the transition back to work.

If you are receiving Social Security disability benefits when you reach full retirement age, your disability benefits automatically convert to retirement benefits, but the amount remains the same.

Qualifying for Social Security Disability Benefits

The United States government offers two programs of financial compensation to help individuals who are unable to work due to a long-term disability. The two programs are similar – individuals qualify for one program or the other based primarily on income levels.

Social Security Disability Insurance (also called SSD or SSDI) is available to disabled individuals who have worked enough time in their lives to have “banked” disability benefits that may be paid back out.

Supplemental Security Income (also called SSI) is a disability benefits program available to disabled people with low incomes such as children and people who have not worked enough time during their lives to qualify for SSDI.

At Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, we are Social Security experts here to help answer your questions and navigate the often times frustrating process to ensure you receive the disability benefits you need and deserve. Never hesitate to give us a call! We are on your side.

Source: <https://www.ssa.gov/planners/disability/>

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

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Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, handles Personal Injury Claims, Social Security and Veterans Disability for clients throughout West Virginia with offices located in Parkersburg-Beckley-Charleston-Huntington-Logan 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.

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963 Market St. | Parkersburg, WV 26101

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