

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS & BEYOND

Q2 NEWSLETTER



JAN DILS 
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Social Security Announces New Expedited Disability Process for Veterans

Carolyn W. Colvin, Acting Commissioner of Social Security, along with Congressman John Sarbanes (D-MD) recently unveiled a new initiative to expedite disability claims by Veterans with a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation rating of 100% Permanent & Total (P&T). Under the new process, Social Security will treat these Veterans' applications as high priority and issue expedited decisions, similar to the way the agency currently handles disability claims from Wounded Warriors.

"Our Veterans have sacrificed so much for our country and it is only right that we ensure they have timely access to the disability benefits they may be eligible for and deserve," said Acting Commissioner Colvin. "Social Security worked with Veterans Affairs to identify those Veterans with disabilities

who have a high probability of also meeting our definition of disability. I am proud of our collaboration and happy to announce this new service for America's Vets." In order to receive the expedited service, Veterans must tell Social

Security they have a VA disability compensation rating of 100% P&T and show proof of their disability rating with their VA Notification Letter.

The VA rating only expedites Social Security disability claims processing and does not guarantee an approval for Social Security disability benefits. These Veterans must still meet the strict eligibility requirements for a disability allowance.

For information about this service, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/disability-pt.htm. For more about Social Security's handling of Wounded Warrior's disability claims, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors.

"Our Veterans have sacrificed so much for our country and it is only right that we ensure they have timely access to the disability benefits they may be eligible for and deserve."

Source: <http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/pr/2014/expedited-dib-process-pr.html>

Disability.gov's Guide to Financial Help for Low-Income Individuals & Families

In addition to Social Security disability benefits, there are many government and private sector programs that help low-income individuals and families pay for the necessities of life, such as prescription drugs, food and utility bills. To find out which government benefits you may be eligible to receive, use the Benefit Finder on Benefits.gov. Visit www.disability.gov/resource/disability-govs-guide-to-financial-help-for-low-income-families-individuals/ for these "quick links" to get you started:

- Extra Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs
- Apply for Help Paying for Food
- Apply for Help Paying Heating or Electric Bills
- Learn How to Get Help Paying Your Phone Bill
- How Do I Get Help Paying for the Internet or a Computer?
- Where Can I Get Help in My Community?

Note: Disability.gov cannot take applications for disability benefits or other assistance programs. You must contact the government agency or organization in charge of the program or service.

Source: <https://www.disability.gov/resource/disability-govs-guide-to-financial-help-for-low-income-families-individuals/>



A LETTER
FROM JAN

Welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter! We are off to a great start to 2014, and looking forward to the warmer days ahead. Also in the days ahead, we will continue our commitment to bringing you the latest news and helpful information concerning Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

In this edition, we have compiled a great mix of articles, and I am particularly excited to share the good news that Social Security has announced a faster process designed to help our Veterans receive their benefits more quickly than ever before. Be sure to read about that new process, and check out the excerpt from our blog that can help you determine if you may be eligible for back pay.

We've also included an article about financial help that's available for low-income families to help cover the cost of necessities such as food, utility bills, and prescription medications. And of course, we have a delicious new recipe that I'm sure you'll enjoy.

I also want to let each and every one of you know that we consider it a privilege to help the clients we serve receive the benefits they deserve. We are always happy to help in any way we can, and that includes taking the time to answer any questions you may have about Social Security and Supplemental Security Income. Please feel free to give us a call, send an email, or check out our website at JanDils.com. We are always happy to hear from you!

Sincerely, *Jan Dils*



JAN DILS brings her expertise to issues that affect you and millions of other Americans every day. Her knowledge encompasses vital areas for Social Security disability benefits and related appeals and claims. With a practice that focuses on the people, Jan Dils ensures you get answers and the right results.

Individuals released from incarceration may be eligible for Social Security retirement, survivors, or disability benefits if they have worked or paid into Social Security enough years, or for Supplemental Security Income benefits if they are 65 or older, or are blind, or have a disability and have little or no income and resources.

Does Social Security Pay Benefits To Prisoners?

Social Security pays benefits under both the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. Both of these programs prohibit payments to most prisoners. Social Security benefits are suspended if an otherwise eligible person is confined in a jail, prison, or other penal institution for more than 30 continuous days due to conviction of a crime.

If I Am Arrested On A Criminal Charge, Or On Parole Or Probation Violation, Will I Still Get My Monthly Social Security Payments?

Social Security generally does not pay Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients during confinement for a crime in jail, prison or certain other public institutions.

BENEFITS AFTER INCARCERATION: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.



My Checks Stopped While I Was Incarcerated. How Do I Restart My Benefits?

If the prison has a pre-release agreement with the Social Security Administration, you or the prison's representative may initiate contact with Social Security 90 days before your scheduled release date.

If the prison does not have a pre-release agreement with Social Security, contact

Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to schedule an appointment to apply for benefits.

My Husband Is Presently Incarcerated And Does Not Receive Social Security Benefits. Are My Son And I Eligible For Any Benefits While He Is In Jail?

If your husband was not receiving Social Security benefits before his incarceration, Social Security cannot pay benefits to you or your son during

your husband's incarceration.

If you and your son were receiving Social Security benefits on your husband's record before his incarceration, benefits to you and your son would continue during the incarceration.



For answers to more questions about how incarceration affects your Social Security benefits, visit www.ssa.gov/reentry/#a0=6

And the Apple Goes To...

January's Golden Apple Award was presented to a teacher who has inspired her students for over 30 years. Cheryl Wingrove of the Jan Dils team surprised **Mrs. Susan Williams** of Criss Elementary School, who was nominated for the Golden Apple Award by two fellow teachers. Active in committees, school programs, and teaching, Mrs. Williams is considered a leader and an inspiration.

"I love the kids," she explained. "I own a house in Florida and my husband is retired and he'd really like for me to retire so that I can go to Florida with him whenever he wants, and get away from this weather, but I'm here for the kids. That is why I went into teaching and that's why I'm still here."

As if she isn't busy enough with dozens of meetings for multiple programs, Mrs. Williams is continually spearheading new ones, including writing letters to soldiers overseas.

February's Golden Apple winner was nominated by one of her students, who praised the Williamstown teacher for making Shakespeare fun to learn. **Mrs. Cyndi Pyles** is also described as dedicated, compassionate and deserving.

Active in supporting students at their events and also active in the community, Mrs. Pyles says it is about being a good role model for her sophomore English students. "I get my energy from the students," she said. "If you show them even the littlest bit of respect and love, they give it back to you in spades. I try to make even Shakespeare fun."

Students say Mrs. Pyles demonstrates her thoughtfulness in countless ways, even making coffee every morning for the other teachers.

We are proud to honor such dedicated educators for the commitment they show day in and day out. Please join us in thanking them for their hard work, and for making a real difference in the lives of our community's children!

Think Pink! VA Intake Specialist **Brittany McLeish** and her husband Nathan have learned that the baby they are expecting in late June is a girl! Stay tuned for little Miss McLeish's name, which we will pass along to you as soon as Brittany and Nathan make the announcement.

IT'S TIME TO...

- Plan the ultimate practical joke. **April 1st is April Fool's Day.**
- Think of ways to spend your refund (hopefully!) **April 15th is Tax Day.**
- Hide the eggs and put on your Sunday best. **April 20th is Easter.**
- Treat your sibling to lunch. **May 2nd is Brother and Sister's Day.**
- Tell your mom—or someone else—how great she is. **May 11th is Mother's Day.**
- Show your "purr-fect" pet some love. **May 15th is Hug Your Cat Day.**
- Remember all those who have served our country. **May 26th is Memorial Day.**
- Remember to let Old Glory fly. **June 14th is Flag Day.**
- Tell your dad—or someone else—how great he is. **June 15th is Father's Day.**
- It's almost heaven every day of the year. **June 20th is West Virginia Day.**

SALTY OATMEAL COOKIES

A LITTLE SALTY, A LITTLE SWEET, A LOT OF FLAVOR!

Try this recipe for Salty Oatmeal Cookies from the Jan Dils Team to "bake and take" to your next gathering, or anytime you crave something sweet and salty!

COOKIE INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 3 cups quick cooking oats
- Kosher salt

DIRECTIONS

In a medium bowl, cream together butter, white sugar, and brown sugar. Beat in eggs one at a time, then stir in vanilla. Combine flour, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon; stir into the creamed mixture. Mix in oats. Cover, and chill dough for at least one hour. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Grease cookie sheets. Roll the dough into walnut sized balls, and place 2 inches apart on cookie sheets. Flatten each cookie slightly, and sprinkle lightly with kosher salt. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in preheated oven. Allow cookies to cool on baking sheet for 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely. Enjoy!

**COMMONYMS:
TAKE THE CHALLENGE**

What's a commonym you ask? A commonym is group of words that have a common trait in the three words/items listed. For example: the words; A car - A tree - An elephant... they all have trunks. These will make you think!

1. Furniture - Mustaches - Skis
2. Golf Course - A Coffee Shop - A Quart
3. He - She - They
4. Jupiter - Alaska - The Blue Whale
5. Wood Tick - Leech - Mosquito
6. Yawning - Laughter - Influenza
7. Improper - Unit - Mixed
8. Marigold - Mustard - Canary
9. Snake - Cavity - Bottomless
10. Kidney - String - Black

This issue's solution: 1. They are waxed 2. They have cups 3. Pronouns 4. Largest of their kind 5. Blood suckers 6. They are contagious 7. Fractions 8. Shades of yellow 9. They have pits 10. Beans

JAN DILS BLOG

Are You Eligible For Social Security Back Pay?

If you have been approved to receive Social Security payments, you may be eligible for back pay dating to the onset of your disability.

How does this work?

It varies based on the benefits you are receiving. For Supplemental Security Income (SSI), benefits begin accruing the month following the month in which you became disabled and qualified for benefits. So, if your disability began on February 8, 2011, and you applied for benefits on February 11, 2011, your first month of entitlement would be March 2011 even if you did not get approved until years later.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), on the other hand, begins accruing on the sixth month after you became disabled and applied for benefits. So, if you became disabled on February 8, 2011, and applied for benefits on February 11, 2011, your first month of entitlement would be August 2011.

For both programs, please keep in mind that any back benefits may be affected if you owe taxes to the IRS, have outstanding child support payments, owe representative fees or have not paid federally-funded student loans.

Do you have questions about back pay or other issues with your benefits? Contact the Jan Dils team today to get expert answers to your Social Security questions!





1-877-JANDILS
JANDILS.COM

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We Won't Take **NO** For An Answer®

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IF YOU ARE BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED – YOUR CHOICES FOR RECEIVING INFORMATION FROM SOCIAL SECURITY

At times, Social Security needs to contact you with important information. There are different ways to receive information from them if you are blind or have a visual impairment and you have applied for or receive Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, or you are the representative payee for someone who has applied for or receives Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

You can choose to receive notices from Social Security in one of the following ways:

- Standard print notice by first-class mail;
- Standard print notice by certified mail;
- Standard print notice by first-class mail and a follow-up telephone call;
- Braille notice and a standard print notice by first-class mail;
- Microsoft Word file on a data compact disc (CD) and a standard print notice by first-class mail;
- Audio CD and a standard print notice by first-class mail; or
- Large print (18-point size) notice and a standard print notice by first-class mail.

If you already have requested notices in one of the seven formats, but need Social Security to provide you with a particular Social Security document in your preferred format, visit www.ssa.gov/pgm/reach.htm for information on how to contact Social Security.



If you would like to receive information in another way that is not mentioned above, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 and let them know how they should send you information. Generally, you'll have a shorter wait time if you call during the week after Tuesday. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may call their TTY number, 1-800-325-0778.



To select or change the way you wish to receive information from Social Security, go to www.ssa.gov/notices/ and click on the link.