

IN THIS ISSUE

Disability Benefits In
Special Situations

How To Check The Status Of A
Pending Application

Letter from Jan Dils

Office Inbox
Stay Plugged into the Practice

It's Time To...

7 layer dip

Supplementary Security Income
(SSI) Eligibility Requirements.

Social Security Disability
Overpayment & How to Prevent It

Got a minute? Log in!



Disability Benefits In Special Situations.

Most people who receive disability benefits are workers who qualify on their own records and meet Social Security's work and disability requirements. However, there are special situations you may not know about:

If you are blind or have low vision:

You may qualify for Social Security or SSI disability benefits if you are considered "legally blind." Social Security considers you to be legally blind if your vision cannot be corrected to better than 20/200 in your better eye, or if your visual field is 20 degrees or less in your better eye.

If your vision does not meet the legal definition of blindness, you may still qualify for disability benefits if your vision problems alone or combined with other health problems prevent you from working. For Social Security disability benefits, you also must have worked long enough in a job where you paid Social Security taxes. For SSI payments based on disability and blindness, you need not have worked, but your income and resources must be under certain dollar limits.

If you are the widow or widower of a person who worked long enough under Social Security, you can:

- receive full benefits at full retirement age for survivors or reduced benefits as early as age 60.
- begin receiving benefits as early as age 50 if you are disabled AND the disability started before or within seven years of the worker's death.
- receive survivors benefits at any age if you take care of the

deceased worker's child who is under age 16 or is disabled and receives benefits on the worker's record.

If you remarry after you reach age 60 (age 50 if disabled), your remarriage will not affect your eligibility for survivors benefits.

Benefits for a disabled child:

A child under age 18 may be disabled, but Social Security doesn't need to consider the child's disability when deciding if he or she qualifies for benefits as your dependent. The child's benefits normally stop at age 18 unless he or she is a full-time student in an elementary or high school (benefits can continue until age 19) or is disabled.

For a child with a disability to receive benefits on your record after age 18, the following rules apply:

- The disabling impairment must have started before age 22, and;
- He or she must meet the definition of disability for adults.

An adult disabled before age 22 may be eligible for child's benefits if a parent is deceased or starts receiving retirement or disability benefits. This is considered a "child's" benefit because it is paid on a parent's Social Security earnings record.

The "adult child"—including an adopted child, or, in some cases, a stepchild, grandchild, or step grandchild—must be unmarried, age 18 or older, and have a disability that started before age 22.

Source: www.socialsecurity.gov/dibplan/dqualify7.htm

How To Check The Status Of A Pending Application.

If the Jan Dils team filed your application for benefits, we will keep you posted every step of the way, and let you know as soon as a decision has been reached. If you applied for benefits, you can check the status of your application online at <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps6z/IAPS/applicationStatus>. You should allow five days from the date your application was originally filed before checking online.

Your application status will show:

- The date Social Security received your application
- Any requests for additional documents
- The address of the office processing your application
- If a decision has been made

If you are unable to check your status online, you can call Social Security at **1-800-772-1213** (TTY **1-800-325-0778**), Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; or contact your local Social Security office.

Source: <https://faq.ssa.gov/link/portal/34011/34019/Article/3707/How-do-I-check-the-status-of-a-pending-application-for-benefits>

A LETTER
FROM JAN

Springtime is here at last, and as we say goodbye to a very long, cold winter, the entire team and I are looking forward to seeing more of our clients in the coming months. The snow and ice have kept most of us inside for the last several months, but we have managed to make the most of that time by finding new ways to keep you informed in every step of the process as we fight to help you obtain your Social Security benefits.

Our second quarterly newsletter of 2015 includes information on two ways that you can stay connected online, by checking the status of a pending application, or by accessing “my Social Security” for an overview of your account any time, day or night. You’ll also find a new article that outlines some of the eligibility requirements for Supplemental Security Income, and an overview of Disability benefits that you may qualify for in special situations. Plus, we are sharing a new delicious and easy recipe that’s perfect for spring, along with all the latest news from our team members.

Please feel free to call us if you’d like to stop by one of our offices so we can be prepared to meet you and answer your questions in a timely manner.

We have the experience and expertise in Social Security benefits to answer your questions, and we are always happy to hear from you!

Sincerely, 



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.

SUPPLEMENTARY SECURITY INCOME (SSI) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

One question our team receives almost every day concerns eligibility for SSI benefits. We’ve included an overview of basic requirements below—for more information, feel free to contact the offices of Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law. We will be happy to discuss your individual circumstances and answer any questions you may have.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR SSI?

Anyone who is:

- age 65 or older;
- blind;
- or disabled.

And, who:

- has limited income; and
- has limited resources; and
- is a U.S. citizen or national, or in one of certain categories of aliens; and
- is a resident of one of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, or the Northern Mariana Islands;
- and is not absent from the country for a full calendar month or for 30 consecutive days or more;
- and is not confined to an institution (such as a hospital or prison) at the government’s expense;
- and applies for any other cash benefits or payments for which he or she may be eligible, (for example, pensions, Social Security benefits);
- and gives SSA permission to contact any financial institution and request any financial records about you

WHAT DOES “LIMITED INCOME” INCLUDE?

Income, for the purposes of SSI includes:

- money you earn from work;
- money you receive from other sources, such as Social Security benefits, workers compensation, unemployment benefits, the Department of Veterans Affairs, friends or relatives;
- and free food or shelter.

WHAT ARE “LIMITED RESOURCES”?

Resources, for the purposes of SSI, are things you own such as cash, bank accounts, stocks, U.S. savings bonds, land, vehicles, personal property, life insurance, and anything else you own that could be converted to cash and used for food or shelter.

Social Security does not count the value of all of your resources for SSI. The SSI limits for resources that they do count are:

Individual/Child — \$2,000 Couple — \$3,000



And the Apple Goes To...

Jan Dils Team member Cheryl Wingrove was proud to present February's Golden Apple Award to **Sandy Martin**, a first grade teacher at Gihon Elementary School. Ms. Martin, who is described as an amazing teacher by her principal, is retiring this year after many years of touching the lives of her students and making a real difference in our community.

Please join us in congratulating Sandy Martin, our latest Golden Apple Award winner, and thanking her for a career dedicated to helping our children achieve their goals and dreams!

IT'S TIME TO...

- Try out a new prank. **April 1st is April Fool's Day.**
- Find all of those hidden eggs. **April 5th is Easter Sunday.**
- Put down that mop and pick up the remote. **April 7th is No Housework Day.**
- Double-check those deductions. **April 15th is Tax Day.**
- Plant a tree and watch it grow. **April 24th is Arbor Day.**
- Try a daring new 'do! **April 30th is Hairstylist's Day.**
- Thank a teacher. **May 5th is Teacher Appreciation Day.**
- Find your flip-flops. **May 8th is No Socks Day.**
- Don't forget to call Mom! **May 10th is Mother's Day.**
- Have ice cream for breakfast. And lunch, too. **May 11th is Eat What You Want Day.**
- Take it slow. Really, really slow. **May 23rd is World Turtle Day.**
- Remember all those who have sacrificed for our freedom. **May 25th is Memorial Day.**
- Don't even think about skipping breakfast. **June 1st is Donut Day.**
- Fly your flag with pride. **June 6th is D-Day.**
- And don't take that flag down yet! **June 14th is Flag Day.**
- Hope for a windy day. **June 15th is Fly A Kite Day.**
- Don't forget to call Dad! **June 21st is Father's Day.**
- Add some sprinkles and whipped cream. **June 27th is Frozen Yogurt Day.**

**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. Raisin - White - Rye
2. Eiffel - Water - Watch
3. Surfing Waves - TV's - Toothpaste
4. A popular Girl - The Dried Fruit Isle - Tombstones
5. The Scale - The Legend - The Key
6. A Shepherd - Sheet Music - The White House
7. Teddy Bear - Turkey - Christmas Stocking
8. Porkey - Wilber - Arnold
9. Volleyball - Office with Computers - Fisherman
10. Tapestry - Braided - Area

This issue's solution: 1. breads 2. towers 3. they have tubes 4. they all have dates 5. parts of a map 6. they have staffs 7. mustards 8. pigs 9. they have nets 10. rugs

JAN DILS BLOG

**Social Security Disability
Overpayment & How to
Prevent It**

There have been occurrences of overpayment by the Social Security Administration (SSA) to disability benefits recipients. In these cases, individuals receive notification that they have been paid too much, even for years without knowing it, along with an explanation and a time period within which the SSA wants this amount repaid to them.

Since this compensation is valuable to the livelihood of individuals with debilitating conditions that prevent them from working, most don't have this money readily available to pay back. The SSA then withholds monthly benefits checks until the amount has been recovered.

So, why does this happen?

Among many reasons, overpayment can occur if an individual continued receiving benefits despite returning to work through one of the SSA's incentive programs such as Ticket to Work. Changes in income without proper notification could also result in overpayment. Marriage—especially remarriage—to a spouse whose income adjusts a household's countable income can also be the cause.

Even if the overpayment was the result of the SSA's oversight, the most someone can do is fill out form SSA-632 to appeal it. Unfortunately, it's rare that the SSA will overturn their decision. And the process of appealing before an Administrative Law Judge can take years, every month of which that person will not receive benefits (depending on the overpayment amount).

What can you do to prevent Social Security Disability overpayment from happening to you?

An experienced Social Security Disability Lawyer can help you navigate the process with confidence – from the initial application for benefits to appealing your case to any situational changes that could affect your monthly amount after you're approved.

For a 100% free and confidential initial consultation, contact Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law. Our expert staff is here to help. You can call us toll-free at 1.877.526.3457 or send us an e-mail for a prompt response

7 LAYER DIP

**THIS RECIPE IS SUPER EASY AND A BEAUTIFUL
DISH TO ENTERTAIN WITH**

This month's recipe comes from Leads Specialist Amanda Richard.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 can of (16 oz.)Old El Paso refried beans
- 2 tablespoons taco seasoning mix
- 1 container (8 oz.) sour cream
- 1 ¼ cup guacamole
- 1 ¼ cup of Thick and chunky salsa
- 1 cup shredded cheese
- 1 cup of lettuce
- (can top with olives or anything else that you would like)

DIRECTIONS

- In a small bowl you'll mix the refried beans, taco seasoning. Spread around 3 Tablespoons of the mixture in the bottom of your containers
- Put a layer of sour cream
- Top each container with 2 tablespoons of guacamole and salsa
- Then you will top with shredded cheese, lettuce and any other toppings that you may like. Serve and enjoy!





1-877-JANDILS
JANDILS.COM

Q2 NEWSLETTER



We Won't Take NO For An Answer®

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



GOT A MINUTE? LOG IN!

You don't have to be a "techie" to use Social Security's Online Services. Just visit www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices and you'll see what we mean. You can use a my Social Security account to access your Social Security Statement to ensure that the earnings posted are accurate. Also, you can get estimates of future retirement, disability, and survivor benefits you or your family may receive. If you already receive Social Security benefits, you can get benefit verification letters, change your address and phone number, and start or update direct deposit information. It's easy to set up an account, so join the millions who have already done so this year. Discover all the things you can do online at www.socialsecurity.gov.

www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices

