

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS & BEYOND



RELIEF FOR THOUSANDS SUFFERING FROM ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.

Today, there are nearly 5.4 million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease. While most people associate the disease with old age, there are 200,000 Americans under the age of 65 living with it today. As with all forms of the disease, Early Onset Alzheimer's is a progressive, terminal disease, which cannot be prevented, cured or even slowed.

Since the onset can occur in people as early as their thirties and forties, it often strikes during an individual's prime working years, and as the disease progresses it prevents gainful employment. As a result, individuals are coming to grips with a devastating diagnosis all while losing employment and the salary and benefits that come with being employed. These individuals and their caregivers then must figure out how they will pay for their care.

Thankfully, since 2010 Social Security has helped by adding Alzheimer's disease to its Compassionate Allowances Initiative. The initiative identifies debilitating diseases and medical conditions so severe they obviously meet Social Security's disability standards. Compassionate Allowances allow for faster payment of Social Security benefits to individuals with Alzheimer's disease, mixed-dementia and Primary Progressive Aphasia.

The inclusion of Alzheimer's disease in Social Security's Compassionate Allowances has had a profound impact on the Alzheimer's community, helping thousands of families including Tom and Julie Allen. Tom was looking for a way to help manage the costs of Julie's Alzheimer's care, since his retirement and two part-time jobs were not enough to cover the large costs of Alzheimer's disease. Through the Alzheimer's Association and Social Security,

he was able to apply for disability benefits for Julie.

Social Security benefits are very important to individuals with early-onset who are unable to work and have no other source of income. As was the case with Tom, the financial complications fall to the caregiver as well as finding the day-to-day care solutions. That is just one of the reasons why we celebrate November as National Family Caregiver Month and take time to honor the 15 million caregivers for those living with Alzheimer's disease.

Visit Social Security's Compassionate Allowances page ssa.gov/compassionateallowances/ to learn more about other medical conditions under the Compassionate Allowances Initiative. The Alzheimer's Association is also here to help. Visit www.alz.org or call the 24/7 Call Center at 1-800-272-3900 for additional support.

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LETTER FROM JAN

In every newsletter, I try to remind our readers that my team is always happy to answer any questions you may have about the process of applying for and receiving Social Security benefits. One of the most common reasons people choose to have an attorney represent them in applying for benefits is the fact that the process can be long and confusing, and many people find it overwhelming to try to keep track of everything.

We have included two articles this month to help address a couple of topics we are frequently asked about. We encounter a lot of questions about who is responsible for the decision

on whether someone is considered disabled and qualified for Disability benefits. The DDS's are State agencies responsible for developing medical evidence and rendering the initial determination on whether the claimant is or is not disabled or blind under the law. Be sure to read

the article we have included for more information on these State agencies that are actually fully funded by the Federal Government.

We also receive a lot of questions around the Listing of Impairments—a list that describes, for each major body system, impairments considered severe enough to prevent an individual from doing any gainful activity. Don't miss the article we have included on this important topic, too.

Of course, you'll also find the latest news from our team, along with a new recipe and more. And again, I want to remind you that we are always happy to hear from you, and we will gladly answer any questions you may have about the process of fighting for—and winning—the Social Security benefits you deserve.

Sincerely,



JAN DILS brings her expertise to issues that affect you and millions of other Americans every day. While her knowledge spans the critical areas pertaining to Personal Injury, Veterans' benefits, Social Security disability benefits and related appeals and claims, her practice remains focused on people, making sure you get the right answers and, above all, results.

SOCIAL SECURITY'S LISTING OF IMPAIRMENTS.

THE LISTING OF Impairments describes, for each major body system, impairments considered severe enough to prevent an individual from doing any gainful activity (or in the case of children under age 18 applying for SSI, severe enough to cause marked and severe functional limitations). Most of the listed impairments are permanent or expected to result in death, or the listing includes a specific statement of duration. For all other listings, the evidence must show that the impairment has lasted or is expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months. The criteria in the Listing of Impairments are applicable to evaluation of claims for disability benefits under the Social Security disability insurance program or payments under the SSI program.

Part A of the Listing of Impairments contains medical criteria that apply to the evaluation of impairments in adults age 18 and over. The medical criteria in Part A (www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/AdultListings.htm) may also be applied in

evaluating impairments in children under age 18 if the disease processes have a similar effect on adults and younger children.

Part B of the Listing of Impairments contains additional medical criteria that apply only to the evaluation of impairments of persons in children under age 18. Certain criteria in Part A do not give appropriate consideration to the particular effects of the disease processes in childhood; that is, when the disease process is generally found only in children or when the disease process differs in its effect on children and adults. Additional criteria are included in Part B (www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/ChildhoodListings.htm), and the impairment categories are, to the extent possible, numbered to maintain a relationship with their counterparts in Part A. In evaluating disability for child under age 18, part B will be used first. If the medical criteria in part B do not apply, then the medical criteria in part A will be used.

The criteria in the Listing of Impairments apply only to one step of the multi-step sequential evaluation process. At that step, the presence of an impairment that meets the criteria in the Listing of Impairments (or that is of equal severity) is usually sufficient to establish that an individual who is not working is disabled. However, the absence of a listing-level impairment does not mean the individual is not disabled. Rather, it merely requires the adjudicator to move on to the next step of the process and apply other rules in order to resolve the issue of disability.





OFFICE INBOX

Julie H. of Case Management is excited to announce her engagement. May 20th is the big day!

COMMUNITY CORNER

The Jan Dils team was proud to present the January 2017 Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law Golden Apple Award to **Lori Zyla** of Parkersburg High School. Mrs. Zyla teaches theater and coaches the speech and debate teams, helping her students grow as artists, speakers, and individuals. For seven years Mrs. Zyla has inspired her young students to achieve greatness, and is known for her cooperation with other organizations that her students are involved in.

Nominated for all of her hard work by one of her current students, her past and present students agree that her desire to help kids thrive is one of her most admirable traits. Please join us in congratulating Mrs. Zyla, and thanking her for her work in helping the leaders of tomorrow reach their full potential!

Headline: It's Time To...

- Try out your best prank. **April 1st is April Fool's Day.**
- Get out that shoebox full of receipts and get to work. **April 15th is Tax Day.**
- Keep an eye out for a large rabbit with candy. **April 16th is Easter Sunday.**
- Plant a tree. **April 28th is Arbor Day.**
- Celebrate one of Jan's favorite days. **May 1st is Law Day!**
- Don't forget to call Mom. **May 14th is Mother's Day.**
- Give Kitty a squeeze. **May 15th is Hug Your Cat Day.**
- Remember all of those who have served our country. **May 29th is Memorial Day.**
- Fly Old Glory with pride. **June 14th is Flag Day.**
- Remain calm—if you can. **June 18th is Father's Day.**
- Celebrate the state that's Almost Heaven. **June 20th is West Virginia Day.**

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Matt Landers

Matt Landers from our Social Security Leads and Intake Department steps into this month's Employee Spotlight! Matt was born in southeastern Ohio and graduated from Meigs High School in 2007. He attended two years of post-secondary education at the University of Rio Grande, and is looking forward to returning to school to obtain a bachelor's degree in Business Management.



"I love my job because I'm able to help educate potential clients on the process of applying for social security (which can be scary!) and give them comfort in knowing that we will help them, whether we are offering to assist them now or in the future," explained Matt.

Raised in a poverty-stricken area, Matt has always had an interest in helping people. He has volunteered for AmeriCorps*VISTA program, advocated for school funding issues in the state of Ohio, and been involved in committees to organize community festivals and fund-raising events to prevent homelessness.

GAME TIME!

COMMONYMS

What's a commonym you ask?

A commonym is a 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. Arthur - Kong - Herod
2. Base - Beach - Billiard
3. Coat - Spice - Bicycle
4. Green - Black - Iced
5. Rain - Black - Enchanted
6. Short - Bus - Rest
7. Hound - Bull - Sheep
8. Iron - Bronze - Stone
9. Blood - IQ - Ink Blot
10. Burns - Angles - Temperatures

Answers: 1 kings 2 balls 3 they have racks 4 teas 5 forests 6 types of stops 7 dogs 8 ages in the history of man 9 tests 10 measured in degrees

WHAT'S COOKING?

Enjoy a sweet treat today—without the guilt!



This month's easy, delicious and low-calorie recipe for **Orange Dreamsicle Fluff**, shared by Case Manager Amber Sims, is a great way to end any meal on a sweet note!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 Box Sugar-free Instant Vanilla Pudding
- 1 Can Mandarin Oranges, drained
- 1 Container Fat-free Cool Whip (8 oz. size)
- 1 Box Sugar-free Orange Jell-O



DIRECTIONS: Dissolve Jell-O in 1 cup boiling water. Add 3 ice cubes to a cup and fill with cold water. Stir until dissolved and set aside for 5 minutes to cool. Drain oranges and set aside. With electric mixer stir in instant pudding (dry) to Jell-O, beating until pudding is well mixed. Let stand for 15 minutes. Then fold in the thawed Cool Whip and then the oranges. Makes 4 Equal Servings. Enjoy!



2ND QUARTER / 2017

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PERSONAL INJURY / VETERANS' BENEFITS / SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

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JAN DILS
BLOG

STATE DISABILITY DETERMINATION SECTION.

THE DDS'S ARE State agencies responsible for developing medical evidence and rendering the initial and reconsideration determinations on whether the claimant is or is not disabled or blind under the law. These State agencies are fully funded by the Federal Government.

Usually, the DDS obtains evidence from the claimant's own medical sources. When the evidence is unavailable or insufficient to make a determination, the DDS will arrange a consultative examination (CE) to obtain additional information. The claimant's treating source is the preferred source for the CE; however, the DDS may also obtain the CE from an independent source.

After completing its initial development, the DDS makes the disability determination. The determination is made by a two-person adjudicative team consisting of a medical or psychological consultant and a disability examiner. If the adjudicative team finds

that additional evidence is still needed, the consultant or examiner may re-contact a medical source(s) and ask for additional information. The DDS will refer the case to the State VR agency if the claimant is a candidate for vocational rehabilitation (VR).

The DDS returns the case to the field office after making a disability determination. The field office takes appropriate action depending on whether the claim is allowed or denied. If the DDS finds the claimant disabled, SSA will complete any outstanding non-disability development, compute the benefit amount, and begin paying benefits. If the claimant is found not disabled, the file is retained in the field office in case the claimant decides to appeal the determination.

If the claimant files an appeal of an initial unfavorable determination, the appeal is usually handled much the same as the initial claim with the exception that a different adjudicative team in the DDS than the one that handled the original case makes the disability determination.

