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Qualifying for Disability for Vision Problems

Social Security has specific measurements for when disability benefits will automatically be granted for vision loss. But it is important to know, that there are several circumstances in which an individual can receive benefits. For example, Social Security recognizes that people with poor peripheral vision shouldn't work near hazardous machinery or at unprotected heights. If a person has extremely poor peripheral vision, they may qualify as being legally blind.

Macular degeneration is the most common cause of central vision loss in individuals older than 50 years old. Many people with macular degeneration are able to live relatively normal lives, especially if only one eye is affected. However, when both eyes are severely affected, a patient may not be able to see well enough to drive or do fine detailed work. If they can't work, they can apply for Social Security disability benefits. However, the Social Security Administration doesn't grant

disability benefits based on a diagnosis of macular degeneration, but on how poor the individual's central acuity or peripheral vision is, and how vision limits abilities.

What if you or a family member were to lose sight in one eye? This could prevent a person from working if the job required binocular vision, depth perception or driving. In that case, the individual might be able to get disability benefits through a medical-vocational allowance for reduced vision, based on what they can and can't do. It's easier for an individual to receive medical-vocational allowance if they are older: if older than 50, 55, or 60, in some cases Social Security's grid rules would require Social Security to find the individual disabled if the agency agrees they can't do their past job. If you have any question about this topic, "vision," or hearing impairment, do not hesitate to reach out to jandils.com and start a live chat. Or give us a call at 877-526-3457.



Letter From Jan

We are in the heat of the summer. Hot topics around our firm include a form of disability we don't always think about – vision and hearing impairment. As we get older, our chances for macular degeneration increase. And vision problems aren't always associated with age. Accidents and severe eye infections may leave even a young person in the prime of their life unable to complete tasks associated with their job. It's hard to imagine losing the gift of sight. And the people that adjust and move forward are some of the strongest I know.

The second topic is about who decides if you're disabled? The reality is the Social Security Administration. There's a lot of paperwork, medical approvals and boxes to check. Even if approved, it takes over 100 days to get disability claims processed. But helping our clients get their benefits is what we do every day.

It's also not uncommon for people to come to us after they have been denied to appeal. Again, always feel welcome to reach out for a free consultation.

And my blog is a post-Mother's Day tribute for those with the hardest jobs in the world – being a mom. In this issue, we have also highlighted a staff member and super strong single mother of two, Kristen Wilson. She is an inspiration to us all.

I hope everyone has a great summer and takes time to count your blessings.

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.



OFFICE INBOX

We have some new faces in the office: **Jen Barnhart** (Leads/Intake), **Alex Rickman** and **Lisa Parsons** (both in Medical Records), **Hannah Ross** (Social Security Appeals) and **Anita Fischer** (Mail & Scanning).

We have also had some internal moves: **Fran Merritt** (Social Security Appeals), **Jeff Hines** (Social Security Case Management), **Kelsey Caplinger** (Social Security Hearing Clerk Support), **Clinton Johnson** (Social Security Medical Clerk), and **Leslie Yetter** and **Kristen Wilson** (both in Social Security Work Up).

COMMUNITY CORNER

Jan Dils, Attorneys At Law's committed staff members Joe Hendershot, Matt Landers, and Jon Corra attended the **Veterans Resource Fair** on May 3, 2018 at the National Guard Armory. They were able to provide valuable information regarding our services to many Veterans in the Parkersburg and surrounding areas. Taylor Sydenstricker and Joe Fortuno also stopped by to show support. Thanks to all who volunteered!



L to R: Joe Fortuno, Matt Landers, Joe Hendershot

Employee Spotlight

KRISTEN WILSON

Kristen Wilson is a mother, friend, and listener. She began as a medical clerk and is currently a work-up specialist in the Jan Dils Social Security Department. She has been with the firm for six months working mostly in the medical office field. Kristen was also studying to be a counselor, focusing primarily on children and has intentions of finishing her degree. "I have always loved working with people. It's such a pleasure to help families get the benefits they need and deserve." Much of her compassion comes from being a young mom of two girls, "It's been just the three of us for most of their lives." She has a heart for helping others and tries to do random acts of kindness every chance she gets. Kristen is also stubborn and refuses to accept help from others. She has a love of buying antique furniture and restoring or updating it. When she isn't at work, she is at home with her two daughters – Arden and Hattie – and her boyfriend, Jonathan. Gatsby the dog is also an important member of the family.



Who decides if I'm disabled?

MOST SOCIAL SECURITY disability claims are initially processed through a network of local Social Security Administration (SSA) field offices and State agencies (usually called Disability Determination Services or DDS). Subsequent appeals of unfavorable determinations may be decided by DDS or by an administrative law judge in the Social Security Administration (SSA) Office of Disability Adjudication and Review.

Social Security representatives in the field offices usually obtain applications for disability benefits in person, by telephone, by mail, or by filing online. The application and related forms ask for a description of the claimant's impairment(s), treatment sources, and other information that relates to the alleged disability.

The field office is responsible for verifying non-medical eligibility requirements, which may include age, employment, marital status, or Social Security coverage information. The field office then sends the case to DDS for evaluation of disability.

Usually, the DDS tries to obtain evidence from the claimant's own medical sources first. If that evidence is unavailable or insufficient to make a determination, the DDS will arrange for a consultative examination (CE) to obtain the additional information needed. After completing its development of the evidence, trained staff at the DDS makes the initial disability determination.

Then, the DDS returns the case to the field office for appropriate action. If the DDS found that the claimant is disabled, SSA completes



any outstanding non-disability development, computes the benefit amount, and begins paying benefits. If the claimant was found not to be disabled, the file is kept in the field office in case the claimant decides to appeal the determination.

If you have questions navigating Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability system, please don't hesitate to give us a call. Consultations are always free.

Source: www.ssa.gov/disability/determination.htm

What's Cooking?

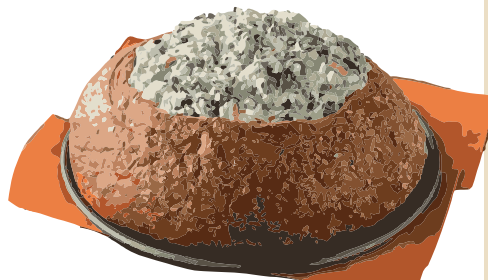
The Best Spinach Dip Ever

It's so easy and the presentation couldn't be more unique – an eatable bowl! But it's the flavor that makes DDS Specialist, **Angie Newberry's** spinach dip truly live up to its "best ever" title. Try it. Your guests will love it.



INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 (16 ounce) container sour cream
- 1 (1.8 ounce) package dry leek soup mix
- 1 (4 ounce) can water chestnuts, drained and chopped
- 1/2 (10 ounce) package frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
- (1 pound) loaf round sourdough bread



DIRECTIONS: In a medium bowl, mix together mayonnaise, sour cream, dry leek soup mix, water chestnuts and chopped spinach. Chill in the refrigerator 6 hours, or overnight. Remove top and interior of sourdough bread. Fill with mayonnaise mixture. Tear removed bread chunks into pieces for dipping.

IT'S 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. A Sprinter - A City - An Icehouse
2. A Beetle - A Fox - A Rabbit
3. A Toe - A Carpenter - A Finger
4. A Basketball - A Turkey - A Christmas Stocking
5. Chicago - Smokey - Yogi
6. Draw - Fade - Slice
7. Yellow - Scarlet - Cabin
8. Toilets - Eyes - Trash Cans
9. Finger - Oil - Latex

Answers: 1. They all have blocks 2. Cars by Volkswagen 3. They have nails. 4. They are stuffed. 5. Bears 6. Golf terms 7. Fevers 8. They have lids 9. They are pants



3RD QUARTER / 2018

963 Market Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

PERSONAL INJURY / VETERANS' BENEFITS / SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

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jandilsblog.com



Jan Dils
Blog

A Message to Moms

I hope every mother had a wonderful Mothers' Day in May. I certainly was spoiled. But it also gave me time for pause. I am a mom – two wonderful boys. With that, I came across an article that struck me. It's about why Social Security is so important to mothers.

Moms are a fundamental component of our society. The roles we play in our lives as nurse, nurturer, teacher, taxi driver, cook, housekeeper, cheerleader, and more, are essential. Social Security was put into place for all people. But it has come to serve mom's most. Here are three important facts you might not know about why Social Security is important to mothers: **(1)** 40 percent of all U.S.

households with children under age 18 include mothers who are either the sole or primary source of income for the family; **(2)** On average, mothers spend more hours than fathers caring for their children – about 11 hours per week (compared with three hours per week for men); **(3)** 1 in 3 married women admit they give power to their spouse for their retirement planning as opposed to taking charge of their own financial future.

I consider myself very fortunate in that I was able to get a good education and start a successful law firm that has been able to help so many people to get the compensation they deserve. As a woman-owned business and a mom,

I'm here for women and families. And trust that I put up the good fight when you are in need of Social Security disability benefits to pay your bills and care for your family.



Source: <https://blog.ssa.gov/social-security-is-important-to-mothers/>