



In This Issue

Social Security Accelerates Decisions for People with Serious Disabilities

Spreading the News About Able Accounts In the Disability Community

Jan's Blog: Top 5 Reasons Why Disability Claims Are Denied

What's Cooking: Cucumber Salad

Social Security Accelerates Decisions for People with Serious Disabilities

To say the Social Security Disability process is long is an understatement. It takes years for most claims to get approved. However, there are some exceptions to the rule. The Social Security Administration (SSA) recognizes certain conditions and disabilities in which expedition occurs. Formally, this list of conditions is known as Compassionate Allowances.

The Compassionate Allowances program identifies claims where the applicant's condition or disease clearly meets Social Security's statutory standard for disability. Due to the severe nature of many of these conditions, these claims are often allowed based on medical confirmation of the diagnosis alone. The list has grown to a total of 237 conditions, including certain cancers, adult brain disorders, and a number of rare disorders that affect children. To date, more than 600,000 people with severe disabilities have been approved through this fast-track, policy-compliant disability process.

Recently, the SSA added CDKL5 Deficiency Disorder, Pitt Hopkins Syndrome, Primary Peritoneal Cancer and Richter Syndrome.

"Social Security's highest priority is to serve the public, and we are committed to ensuring Americans with disabilities receive the benefits they are eligible for," said Andrew Saul, Commissioner of

Social Security. "For over a decade, our Compassionate Allowances program has helped us accelerate the disability process for people who are likely to get approved for benefits due to the severity of their condition."

The agency incorporates leading technology to identify potential Compassionate Allowances and make quick decisions. When a person applies for disability benefits, Social Security must obtain medical records in order to make an accurate determination. Social Security's Health IT brings the speed and efficiency of electronic medical records to the disability determination process. With electronic records transmission, Social Security is able to quickly obtain a claimant's medical information, review it, and make a determination faster than ever before.

For more information about the program, including a list of all Compassionate Allowances conditions, please visit [socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances](https://www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances). However, if you have been among the countless individuals with a disability waiting (and waiting), don't hesitate to contact Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, at 877.526.3457 or visit jandils.com. We know what one or two years of loss income can do to families. That's why we don't take no for an answer®.



Letter From Jan

Fall is right around the corner. The year has flown by. For all our clients, we hope you will take time to remember our Veterans on November 11 – and every day!

In this final issue of the year, we share with you more severe illnesses that have been added to the Compassionate Allowances program. The 237 conditions on this list – and growing – help to speed up a process that can sadly take up to two years for so many individuals with disabilities. The lengthy process is also the topic of my Blog. Approximately 60 to 70% of disability claims are denied. If you appeal, the process becomes longer. That is why our firm offers free consultations. We want to get you the benefits you deserve as quickly as possible.

Lastly, some good news. Did you know that those with disabilities

can save money for housing and maintenance, as well as costs related to employment, transportation, health, technology and financial and benefits planning – tax exempt?

Of course, this means nothing if you are not receiving income to save. And that’s why we are moving into our 26th year of helping thousands of individuals fight successfully for Personal Injury cases, Veterans benefits and Social Security disability.

Please be safe during the holidays! We look forward to ringing in the New Year with more news and tips from our team. In the meantime, don’t hesitate to reach out if you need us at jandils.com.

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 several new team members in the SS POD: **Lauren Snyder** was hired as an SS Attorney, **Sabrina Stanley** joined our Case Management team, and **Lisa Hupp** and **Kirstyn Knicely** have joined Medical Records. **Ciara Carpenter** is the team’s newest Medical Clerk. And last, but certainly not least, **Jasmine Bell** was hired in Mail and Scanning. Welcome!

Internally, **Melissa Lamb** has moved from SS Leads to SS Case Management. And **Clinton Johnson** moved from Mail and Scanning to SS Medical Records.

Plus, the family is growing! **Nikki Richards** from our SS Leads and Intake POD is getting married in September. And **Shawna Bennett**, SS Hearing Clerk, is expecting her second child in October. Congratulations to all.

COMMUNITY CORNER



We held our **Jan Dils Annual Summer Picnic** on Saturday, August 3. We had a wonderful turnout and enjoyed meeting our full, extended family. As our 25th Anniversary, it was an extra special occasion. Weather also complied! And no one left hungry with plenty of barbecue, sides, Kona Ice Treats and Anniversary cake.

Kids of all ages enjoyed water slides, boat rides and field games. We work hard, so it’s always fun to take this day to play hard, too. We are thankful to have such a wonderful team of people to work with every day.

Employee Spotlight

AMANDA RICHARD

Amanda Richard celebrated her sixth anniversary with Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, on July 8. She is a Social Security case manager and a joy to work with in the Social Security POD.

“My favorite part of working here is helping others. There are so many myths surrounding Social Security disability. When you meet these families and understand their hardships, it has a real impact on you. It’s so easy to understand why this safety net is critical.”

Amanda is from Elizabeth, West Virginia – just about 20 minutes south of Parkersburg – and a graduate of Wirt County High School. She has three children: a 21-year-old son, and two daughters ages 14 and 16. They are her pride and joy. She also has a 99-year-old grandmother who she and her children love spending time with and garnering her wisdom. Her favorite food is Las Agaves – the taste of Mexico without the carbs!

Both the Jan Dils team and her clients enjoy her hard work, professionalism and infectious attitude.



Spreading the News About ABLE Accounts in the Disability Community

WE ARE COMING UP on a notable anniversary for those with disabilities. On December 19, 2019, the Stephen Beck, Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) will be five years old. Why is Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, pleased to share this with our clients who receive Social Security benefits? Because this five-year-old has influenced 41,000 people to open ABLE accounts that can earn tax-free income.

The ABLE Act allows an estimated eight million Americans with disabilities to save money for qualified disability expenses for their short-term needs and long-term future. ABLE account holders can use the funds for qualified disability-related expenses including housing and maintenance, as well as costs related to employment, transportation, health, technology and financial and benefits planning.

In West Virginia, these accounts are branded as WVABLE. You

can learn more at wvable.com. The good news is these savings accounts will largely not affect your eligibility for Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI), Social Security Disability (SSDI), Medicaid and other public benefits. ABLE account owners who are SSI and SSDI beneficiaries are no longer stuck in a life of poverty or have to face the \$2,000 asset limit and be disqualified from receiving SSI benefits.

The ABLE program should not be the best-kept secret in the disability community. Help spread the word!



Source: blog.ssa.gov/spreading-the-news-about-able-accounts-in-the-disability-community/ <https://wvable.com/stable-account/>

What's Cooking?

Cucumber Salad

New VA Leads Specialist **Chad Lockhart** calls his favorite side dish "Summer Cucumber Salad," but don't let that name fool you. It's refreshing all-year long. Perhaps pair it with a spicy bowl of chili and cleanse the palate? And it couldn't be easier!



INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 cup water | 1 tbsp ground black pepper |
| ½ cup distilled white vinegar | 3 cucumbers peeled and sliced |
| ¾ cup Italian dressing | 1 package of grape tomatoes sliced in halves |
| ¾ cup sugar | 1 onion sliced and separated into rings |
| 2 tsp salt | |

DIRECTIONS: Whisk water, dressing, vinegar, sugar, salt and pepper together in a large bowl until smooth. Add cucumbers, tomatoes and onion and stir to coat. Cover bowl; refrigerate at least 2 hours.

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. 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

Answers: 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



4TH QUARTER / 2019

963 Market Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

PERSONAL INJURY / VETERANS' BENEFITS / SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

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



Connect with us on our social networks!
jandilsblog.com



*Jan Dils
Blog*

Top 5 Reasons Why Disability Claims are Denied

Each year the Social Security Administration denies approximately 60 to 70% of the initial disability claims that it receives. The applicants who receive such a denial of benefits must pursue the disability benefits appeal process in order to obtain the Social Security Disability benefits that they need.

Unfortunately, the pursuit of such a denial may take two years or more to complete. If you want to avoid having your initial disability claim denied, it's important to understand why so many claims are denied in the first place.

These primary reasons include: lack of sufficient evidence, improperly completed

claim forms, failure to comply with a consultative exam, a case that just isn't strong enough, and failing to seek out legal help. That's why we are here – to give you your best and most expedient chance of getting the benefits you deserve. We have great compassion for our clients and the first consultation is always free. Don't roll the dice. Give us a call at **877.526.3457**. We are always here to help.

