To be eligible for SSI a child must:

1. Meet financial eligibility
   a. A portion of the parent’s income is deemed to the child (until the child’s 18th birthday).
   b. Must have countable resources below a certain limit (although some resources are excluded).

2. Satisfy the Children’s SSI Disability Determination
   a. Must not be engaged in substantial, gainful activity; and
   b. Must have a “severe” impairment (more than a slight abnormality or combination of slight abnormalities that causes more than minimal functional limitations); and
   c. Must:
      ◇ Meet, or
      ◇ Medically equal a “listing.”
         ⇒ “Listings” are the Social Security Administration’s rules on what constitutes a disability.
         ⇒ The listings are available at: http://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/ (Part A are the adult listings; Part B contains the childhood listings).
         ⇒ The listings are generally grouped together by systems (eg. Respiratory, endocrine) and contain rules on eligibility for specific disorders (eg. Asthma) or types of disorders (personality disorders).
      ◇ Or, functionally equal the listings
         ⇒ A child can qualify for SSI when his/her impairment results in marked limitations in two domains of functioning or an extreme limitation in one domain.
            * Marked limitation = the child’s impairment interferes seriously with the child’s ability to independently initiate, sustain, or complete activities
            * Extreme limitation = the impairment very seriously interferes with the child’s ability to independently initiate, sustain, or complete activities
         ⇒ The child is compared to other children of the same age WITHOUT disabilities
         ⇒ The domains of functioning are:
            * Acquiring and using information
            * Attending to and completing tasks
            * Interacting and relating with others
            * Moving about and manipulating objects
            * Ability to care for oneself
            * Health and physical well-being
   d. And, the impairment must be expected to last 12 or more months or result in death.

This handout is not a substitute for legal advice and is meant for informational purposes only.
For more information or assistance please contact Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. at www.declasi.org or (302) 575-0660
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