



SSI Eligibility

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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