



**PERSONAL INJURY  
VETERANS DISABILITY  
& SOCIAL SECURITY**  
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As 2016 starts to wind down, my team and I are already busy planning for the new year ahead. I recently attended a 2-day Social Security leadership meeting with Social Security attorneys from across the country that was focused on new rules and proposed changes for 2017. Staying up-to-date on Social Security's changing rules and regulations is a critical part of our yearly planning, and successfully fighting for the benefits our clients deserve. I always return from events like this one recharged and full of new ideas to share—and I've included a preview in this month's newsletter.

Our first article contains information on the recently published update to criteria used to evaluate disability claims involving mental disorders. Diagnostic and functional criteria for intellectual disability was updated as well, with the goal of speeding up the process of identifying people who may qualify for disability benefits based on an intellectual disability.

Our second article this month deals with benefits for children. The Social Security disability program provides vital income for disabled children, including people who have been disabled since childhood.



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[Reasons Why Your Social Security Disability Application Was Denied](#)

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This is such an important topic, so be sure to check out the link included in the article for more details on benefits for children.

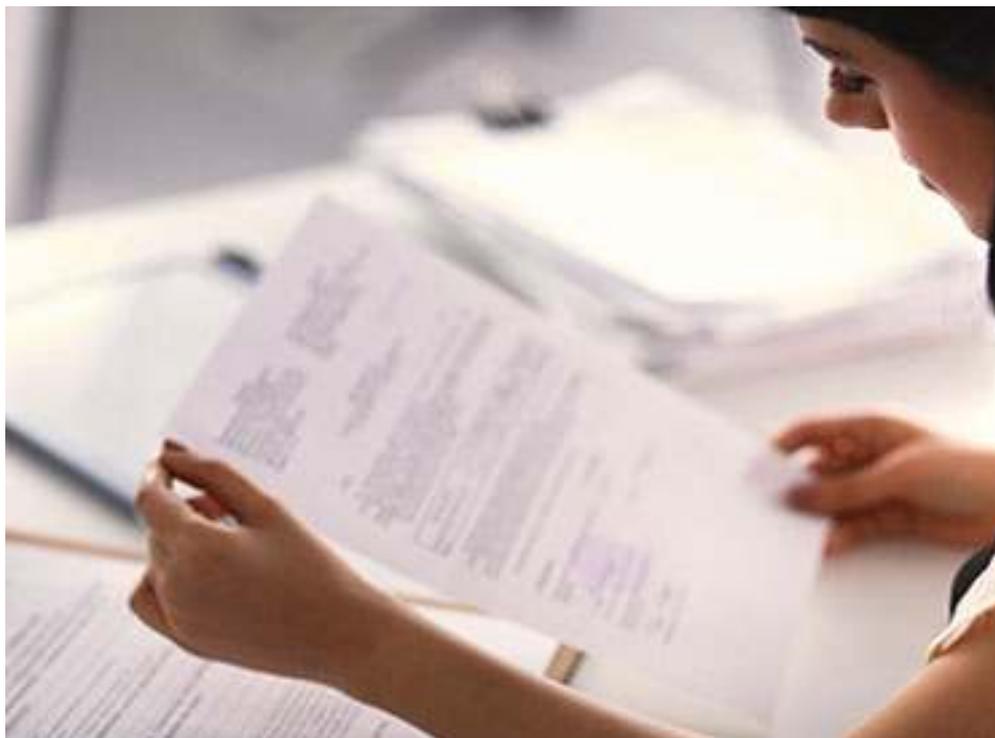
If you have questions about the topics we've covered this month, or about other aspects of disability benefits, contact us through JanDils.com or give us a call. We're always happy to hear from you, and to use our experience to help in any way we can!



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## MENTAL DISORDERS RULE UPDATE



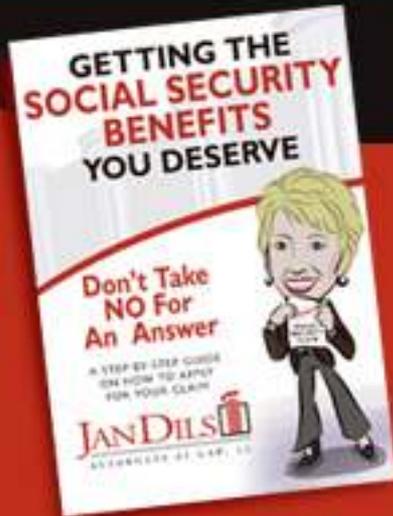
Social Security recently published a final rule to update the criteria they use to evaluate disability claims involving mental disorders. This rule, "Revised Medical Criteria for Evaluating Mental Disorders," is the most comprehensive revision to the criteria since 1985. After

[How Does a Child Qualify for SSI?](#)

[Does being blind qualify me for Social Security benefits?](#)

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publishing this final rule, Social Security’s standards and terminology for evaluating claims involving mental disorders reflect information from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition – the mental health profession’s current standard classification of mental disorders.

While this rule was being updated, the public had questions about the criteria used by Social Security for evaluating intellectual disability. From childhood onward, people with intellectual disabilities experience deficits in intellectual functioning and lack many basic daily practical and social skills. Social Security decided it was critical to ensure these individuals receive necessary assistance as soon as possible. Therefore, they updated the diagnostic and functional criteria for this disorder and are using IQ test score criteria to quickly identify people who may qualify for disability benefits based on an intellectual disability.

Besides reflecting comments from members of the public, the rule reflects the expertise of disability policy experts, adjudicators, psychiatric professionals, and vocational experts. During the process of updating the rule, Social Security engaged with stakeholders, including: disability beneficiaries and their family members; psychiatrists, psychologists, and other mental health treatment providers; and advocacy groups for those with mental disorders. They also solicited, responded to, and incorporated public comments, and considered an intellectual disability report commissioned from the National Academy of Sciences.

*Source: <http://blog.ssa.gov/mental-disorders-rule-update/#more-1876>*

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**SOCIAL SECURITY'S  
BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN**



Every year, about 4.4 million children receive monthly benefits because one or both of their parents are disabled, retired, or deceased. When a parent becomes disabled or dies, Social Security benefits help to stabilize the family's financial situation in an otherwise turbulent time.

Earlier this year, National Birth Defects Prevention Month in January and National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March both raised awareness about medical conditions in children. Many families with children who have birth defects or developmental disabilities need medical and financial help. This is where Social Security's commitment to helping children and families is most evident.

Social Security pays benefits through the disability insurance and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. The disability program provides vital income for disabled children, including people disabled since childhood. To qualify for children's benefits under Social Security's disability program, the applicant must be the child of a parent entitled to benefits and meet Social Security's strict definition of disability. A person is disabled under the Social Security Act if he or she can't work due to a severe medical condition that has lasted, or is expected to last, at least one year or result in death.

The SSI program provides payments to blind or disabled children who live in households with low income and limited resources if they meet Social Security's strict definition of disability.

The publication "[Benefits for Children](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10085.pdf)" at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10085.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10085.pdf) is an excellent source of information. If you think a child you know is eligible for benefits, don't wait. Share this information and help improve the child's quality of life today.

*Source: <http://blog.ssa.gov/tag/disability-benefits/page/3/>*

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*Jan Dils keeps you updated on Social Security disability benefits news and important issues that matter the most. We not only focus on Social Security Disability, we also provide legal assistance for Veterans Disability Benefits . We understand the claims process and specialize in making sure Veterans receive the proper representation needed for receiving benefits. For more information on our Veterans Disability services, please visit [www.fight4vets.com](http://www.fight4vets.com)*

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Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, handles Personal Injury Claims, Social Security and Veterans Disability for clients throughout West Virginia with offices located in Parkersburg-Beckley-Charleston-Huntington-Logan as well as one additional office located in Charlotte, North Carolina. But regardless of where you are located we are able to serve you or a family member Nationwide.

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