



Does something happen to my child's SSI when they turn 18?

Yes. After the 18th birthday or at the next medical continuing disability review after 18 SSI makes a redetermination of disability. It will not be like the regular medical continuing disability review where it was up to the Social Security Administration (SSA) to show if the young adult has medically improved. Instead, the person wanting to continue disability must show they remain disabled as an adult.

What is different about proving disability as an adult?

Previously, when under 18, SSA would consider certain diagnosis and behaviors "disabling". At 18, the young adult must meet the definition of disability, which is about the ability to work. The definition of disability for adults is:

- ✚ The ability to not make substantial gainful activity
- ✚ Due to a medically determinable physical or psychological condition
- ✚ Which is expected to result in death, has lasted a year or expected to last a year.

What is substantial gainful activity?

It is a measure SSA uses to determine the ability to engage in behaviors, which could support a person. This could be volunteering, working, or gaming. For example, a young adult who could spend 8 hours a day playing a video game, could be considered having the ability to make substantial gainful activity even though he/she did not make any money. The young adult did show the ability to concentrate and stay on task.

Does deeming affect the 18-year-old?

SSA considers anyone who turn 18 to be a family of one, so deeming no longer an issue.

What is the Age-18 redetermination process?

Possibly starting at one month before 18, but usually within a year of turning 18, SSA will start the process.

- ✚ The young adult will receive written notice.
- ✚ There will be an interview at the SSA field office.
- ✚ SSA will forward all records and information to the Disability Determination Services (DDS).
- ✚ The individual will receive a notice of decision

What should be done to prepare?

Many steps can be started a year before a child turns 18 to help with the process. These steps remain similar to children who may have not been on SSI due to parent's income or "deeming".

- ✚ The first strategy is to know the age-18 redetermination will happen and learn all about the process (see above). The review is different from a regular review, so understand the determination centers around the ability to earn income. Also, know some impairments as a child do not count for adults.
- ✚ The second strategy is that everyone should know whom risk benefits loss the most. Young adults with the most severe impairments have little to fear. The most common disabilities impacted, include behavioral, respiratory, endocrine, cardiovascular, or straight learning disabilities. Lastly, be aware if the young adult has medically improved, they will not pass the redetermination.
- ✚ The third strategy emphasis understanding the questions SSA asks. Even when the question is about school, remember to answer how the situation affects the ability to work. Some questions may also appear to be the same, but SSA does this on purpose to get a better picture. Always think before writing an answer.
- ✚ The fourth strategy is preparing for the worse. 46% of the young adults who go through the redetermination does not pass the first time. Ask for Section 301 and look into keeping health insurance.
- ✚ Lastly, learn the appeals process for those determined ineligible. A young adult can retain the cash benefit while in appeal if done within 10 days of notice, but if the decision is against disability, this can cause overpayment.

What is section 301?

SSA has a provision that allows continued payments of disability benefits even if the person medically improves is no longer under disabled under SSA rules. Yes, the SSI benefit could continue temporarily if certain things are met:

- ✚ Involved with a VR or similar program preparing for employment, or
- ✚ Engaged in a plan for achieving self-support.

These criteria must have begun before the age-18 redetermination begins.

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