

SSI and Age 18 Re-determination

Impact of Age Re-determination

This SSA process for Re-determination at age 18 includes both the gathering of information on the young adult and determination of eligibility under the adult criteria for SSI. The general process is as follows:

1. **Written Notification of Re-determination**

The local Social Security Field Office sends written notification to the individual and parents that the case will be re-determined.

2. **Interview at SSA Field Office**

The benefit recipients and their families, guardians, or representatives go to the field office to complete an initial eligibility interview. The purpose of the interview is to gather information on the severity of the disability and how it affects the person's ability to function. The SSA also requests permission to contact physicians, service providers, and teachers who work with the individual. All are asked to provide information in the individual's ability to function in daily life.

3. **Review by the Disability Determination Service (DDS)**

DDS follows a detailed process to determine if the youth's impairment is "severe" by the SSA's criteria. The criteria to receive the label of "severe impairment" are more stringent for adults than for children.

The DDS also examines the individual's ability to earn income in future employment by reviewing information gathered from the young adult's teachers regarding his/her abilities. Due to the limited opportunities for community work experiences for adolescents with disabilities, the information gathered often relates more to an individual's performance in school without consideration to their ability to perform in actual work environments. Based on a combination of these factors, the DDS determines if the young adult will continue to be eligible for SSI benefits.

At present, the American Bar Association provides referrals to attorneys who will help children and youth with disabilities through both the Re-determination and appeals process (information is available at: www.abanet.org or 202-662-1000).

DRN WIPA Program

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Program
Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania (www.drnpa.org)
1414 N. Cameron Street, 2nd Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17103
1 -800-692-7443 Ext. 309 or call your CWIC's direct number