**WHAT IS A REDETERMINATION FOR SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)?**
The United States Social Security Administration (SSA) reviews your income, resources, and living arrangements to be sure you are still financially eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and are getting the correct payment.

For individuals with developmental disabilities or autism, these reviews are not to redetermine IF you still have the developmental disability or autism, but whether you can now work, attain "substantial gainful activity", or if your financial situation has changed due to other circumstances such as a windfall. For a list of what SSA counts as income, see [https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-income-ussi.htm](https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-income-ussi.htm).

For a definition of “substantial gainful activity” or SGA, see [https://www.ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/sga.html](https://www.ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/sga.html).

In 2017, if you are no longer a full-time student, are non-blind, and have a developmental disability, the amount of earnings considered SGA = $1,170/month.

**WHY IS THE SSI REDETERMINATION IMPORTANT?**
If you do not respond, you may have your payments stopped, be overpaid, or be underpaid. If you lose SSI eligibility, you may also lose Medicaid eligibility based on getting SSI benefits. If you have funding under a Medicaid Waiver, losing eligibility means your service providers will not get paid and you could lose or have a lapse in your funding.

**HOW OFTEN WILL MY CASE BE REDETERMINED?**
Everyone who gets approved for SSI or SSDI gets medically reviewed as part of the initial eligibility screening. Once approved, financial redeterminations are done every 1 – 6 years. SSA will also do a redetermination, using adult disability rules, when you attain age 18 if you were initially approved for benefits as a child.

**WHAT’S THE PROCESS LIKE?**
The United States Social Security Administration has a very helpful webpage called Understanding the Supplemental Security Income Redetermination – 2017 Edition at [https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-redets-ussi.htm](https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-redets-ussi.htm). It’s a good overview of how you may be notified of a redetermination, what kinds of questions you’ll be asked, and documentation which may be required. There are lots of links to other SSI topics such as Rep Payee Duties, the 1/3 Reduction for Living Expenses, Appeals process, and much more. This is a terrific resource!

**IPADD TIPS:**
SSI REDETERMINATIONS SUMMARY: TIPS FOR FAMILIES
AUGUST, 2017

- If you are an adult with a developmental disability, are single, and live at home with your parents, answer income-related questions with only your income – not your parents. Same with questions about “resources” such as house, car, checking or savings accounts, 401K plans, etc. List only those “resources” that you own or that are in your name.

- If you are married or you are a child under age 18, and living with your spouse or parents, SSA is entitled to review the income, resources, and living arrangements of your spouse or parents.

- If you have a Special Needs Trust or a Pooled Trust, money in that trust is NOT a countable resource for SSI unless you received a direct distribution - to you personally - during the past year. If payments have been made on your behalf, such as to a learning or recreation program, personal items, etc. - so long as the payment was made to a third party and not directly to you - it is not considered a “countable resource” for SSI purposes. See https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-trusts.htm.

- Up to $100,000 of funds in an Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account established through a state ABLE program is NOT counted for SSI.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION OR HELP?

- Start by reading the Social Security Administration website for a good overview of SSI definitions, procedures, and rules: https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-understanding-ssi.htm.


- Social Security Administration Helpline: 1-800-772-1213.

- The Arc’s Family to Family (for children and young adults up to age 21): 866-931-1110 or Lifespan Project (for adults or any age): 800-588-7002.

- Sherri Schneider, Family Benefits Solutions: 847-279-8506 or http://www.familybenefitssolutions.com

- In complicated Denial or Appeals cases, or if you want legal advice in other SSI or SSDI matters, you may wish to engage a lawyer who specializes in Social Security. To get a referral, if you have a Special Needs Trust or Pooled Trust in place, we suggest you start by asking the lawyer who set up your trust for names of area lawyers who specialize in Social Security matters.
Below is a list of attorneys specializing in Social Security denials or appeals. These are not endorsements but are provided for information only.

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FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY  
- Much of the information shared here comes directly from the Social Security Administration Red Book, but is guidance only and should not be construed as legal advice. If you have specific questions or concerns about your SSI redetermination, always consult relevant professionals.