

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE	III
TABLE OF CASES	XI
Chapter 1. Overview of Eligibility Requirements	1
A. Employment-based Eligibility	1
1. Special Insured Status for Disability-based Benefits	2
B. Need-based Eligibility (SSI)	3
1. Income Requirements	3
a) Earned Income	4
b) Unearned Income	5
c) In-kind Support and Maintenance	6
d) Deeming of Income	7
2. Resources Requirements	8
C. Old Age Benefits	10
1. OASDI Retirement Age	10
2. SSI Age Requirement	12
D. Survivors Benefits	12
1. Spouses' and Widow(er)s' Benefits	12
a) Eligibility Requirements for Spouses	13
b) Eligibility Requirements for Widow(er)s	13
c) Proof of Marriage	13
2. Child's Benefits	14
a) Parent–Child Relationship	14
b) Age Limits	15
c) Dependency Requirement	15
d) Proof of Parent–Child Relationship and Proof of Dependency	16
e) Dependency and Disabled Adult Children	17
3. Parents' Benefits	17
E. Disability Coverage	17
1. Basic Eligibility Requirements	17
2. Continuing Eligibility	18
a) Continuing Disability Reviews (CDR)	18
b) Trial Work Period	20
c) Re-entitlement Period	20
3. Period of Disability	20
Chapter 2. Overview of Administrative Process	22
A. Administrative Decision-making Process	22
Note on Time Limits for Filing an Administrative Appeal	23
Note on Appeals from Termination of Benefits	23

Note on Reopening.....	24
B. Application and Initial Decision.....	24
C. Reconsideration	27
Chapter 3. Disability Standard	29
A. Disability Standard for Adults	30
1. Standard for Finding a Beneficiary is No Longer Disabled.....	31
B. Disability Standard for Children	33
Chapter 4. Proof of Disability.....	35
A. Sequential Evaluation Process: Overview	36
Note on the Sequential Evaluation Process for Child SSI claims	39
Note on Combination of Impairments	41
B. Simplified Denial at Steps 1 and 2: Substantial Gainful Activity, Minimum Duration, and Severity	42
1. Step 1: Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)	42
Note on Part-time Work	45
2. Step 2: Minimum Duration and Severity	45
a) 12-month Duration Requirement	45
b) Severity Requirement	47
C. Simplified Grant: Step 3 and the Listing of Impairments	48
1. Applying the Listing at Step 3.....	49
2. Medical Equivalence to a Listed Impairment.....	50
3. Functional Equivalence to a Listed Impairment (for Child SSI Claims Only)	52
D. Residual Functional Capacity (RFC)	53
Note on Performing the Full Range of Work Activity	54
E. Step 4: Ability to Perform Past Relevant Work	54
F. Step 5: Ability to Perform Other Work	55
1. Generally.....	55
a) Ability to Perform Part-time Work	56
b) Jobs that Exist in the National Economy	57
2. Step 5 and the Medical-Vocational Guidelines (“Grids”)	57
Note on Age Category and the Grids.....	58
3. Step 5 When the Grids do not Apply	59
G. Special Eligibility Issues.....	59
1. Pain and Other Subjective Symptoms	60
2. Mental Impairments.....	61
3. Stress.....	63
4. Drug Addiction and Alcoholism	64
5. Remediable Disability and Effects of Prescribed Medication	65
a) Remediable Disability	66
b) Disability Due to Effects of Prescribed Medication.....	67
Chapter 5. Administrative Appeals.....	69
A. Administrative Hearing.....	69
B. Role of the Administrative Law Judge	70
C. Appeals Council Review.....	73

D.	Administrative Advocacy	74
	1. Social Security Rulings and the Program Operations Manual System (POMS)	75
	2. Proof of Eligibility	76
	3. Weight and Sufficiency of Medical Evidence	80
	a) General Rules on Weight and Sufficiency	80
	b) Treating Physicians vs. Consulting Physicians	83
	Note on Non-examining Physicians	84
	4. Vocational Experts.....	84
	5. Credibility of Claimants and Lay Witnesses	85
	Chapter 6. Judicial Review and Attorney's Fees	87
	Note on Magistrate Judges	87
A.	Jurisdiction	88
	Note on Remands.....	89
B.	Scope of Judicial Review	91
C.	Attorney's Fees	92
	1. Fee from the Claimant	93
	2. Fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act.....	94
	Chapter 7. Payment of Benefits	96
A.	Calculation and Payment of Benefit Amounts	96
	1. OASDI Insurance Formula	96
	2. SSI Standard of Need	99
	3. Payment of Benefits	100
B.	Multiple Benefits; Family Maximum.....	100
C.	Overpayments and Underpayments	102
D.	Suspension of Benefits	103
E.	Representative Payees	104