

## Common Social Security/SSI Problems

**I have been turned down for SSI because SSA says I am not disabled\* (child or adult).** If you or your child have been denied SSI, you should appeal right away, and then try to find a lawyer. You can file your appeal at your local Social Security office. You should do this as soon as possible after getting the denial. If you want CLS to represent you in your appeal, you need to come to one of our offices for new client intake. When you come to CLS, you should bring all of your papers from SSA, as well as any information you have about what doctors you see and where you get treatment, and school records for children.

\* **NOTE:** Unfortunately, CLS is **not** able to represent individuals who have been denied **Social Security Disability** benefits because of their disability. There are many private lawyers who take these cases. You can call the Lawyer Referral Information Services (LRIS) at **(215) 238-6333** to find a lawyer in Philadelphia for this kind of case.

**I got SSI as a child, and now that I have turned 18, SSA says I am no longer disabled and they are cutting off my benefits.** It is very important that you you're your appeal right away and ask that your benefits continue while you are fighting your case. You have only 15 days to do this if you want to keep your benefits on during your appeal. You can file your appeal at your local Social Security office. If you want CLS to represent you in your appeal, you need to come to one of our offices for new client intake. When you come to CLS, you should bring all of your papers from SSA, as well as any information you have about what doctors you see and where you get treatment. You should also bring any school records you have.

**I (or my child) have been getting SSI or Social Security Disability benefits, but SSA has now told me I am no longer disabled and they are cutting off my benefits.** It is very important that you file your appeal right away and ask that your benefits continue while you are fighting your case. You have only 15 days to do this if you want to keep your benefits on during your appeal. You can file your appeal at your local Social Security office. If you want CLS to represent you in your appeal, you need to come to one of our offices for new client intake. When you come to CLS, you should bring all of your papers from SSA, as well as any information you have about what doctors you see and where you get treatment, as well as school records for children.

**My SSI or Social Security benefits have been cut off or reduced, OR my application for benefits was turned down for some reason other than my disability, OR I am having other problems with my SSI or Social Security benefits (child or adult).** Examples include: too much income or resources; citizenship status; criminal background or warrants; earnings from work; problems with Direct Express card; and many others. You should appeal right away. You can file your appeal at your local Social Security office. If you want CLS to represent you in your appeal, you need to come to one of our offices for new client intake. When you come to CLS, you should bring all of your papers from SSA.

**SSA says they paid me (or my child) too much money and they want me to pay them back.** This is called an overpayment. Many individuals who get benefits from SSA have problems with overpayments at some point. Even though the Social Security Administration says they overpaid

you, you may not have to pay the money back. CLS may be able to help you fight an overpayment or help you do it yourself. When you come to CLS, you should bring all of your papers from SSA.

**I am the widow/er or child of a deceased worker and am having problems getting benefits from SSA.** It is very important that you file your appeal right away. You can file your appeal at your local Social Security office. CLS may be able to help. If you want CLS to represent you in your appeal, you need to come to one of our offices for new client intake. When you come to CLS, you should bring all of your papers from SSA.