

2017 Important Information to Know

SGA (Substantial Gainful Activity):

- In 2017, if you are working and earning over **\$1,170** per month gross (before taxes), Social Security will not make a medical determination on your claim because you are working and earning over the SGA limit.
- SGA for the blind is \$1,950 per month gross.
- SGA for prior years has been:
 - \$1,130 in 2016
 - \$1,090 in 2015
 - \$1,070 in 2014
 - \$1,040 in 2013

SSI (Supplemental Security Income):

- SSI benefits pay a maximum of \$735 per month to qualified recipients.
- A couple may receive up to \$1,103 per month, if both are disabled and eligible for SSI.
- SSI is a “means tested” benefit. Your benefit is impacted by resources and assets.

DIB (Disability Insurance Benefits):

- If you are eligible for DIB, you will receive a benefit based on your work history.
- Benefits are not impacted by your resources and assets.
- Your local social security office can give you an estimate of your benefit.
 - This information is also on the green form that Social Security sends to wage earnings from time to time, and you may order this information online from Social Security at <http://www.ssa.gov/>
- Your benefit is similar to your Social Security retirement benefit.
- Your minor children may also receive a benefit.

****Note:** There are many exceptions to the above information, and we recommend that you go to ssa.gov or call your local Social Security office for more information.

Check out other relevant resource information at our website in our Resources section at www.mkhansenlaw.com and at www.lincolndisabilitylawyer.com

**2017 SSA Benefits Information
Effective 01/01/2017**

SSI: Individual: \$735/month (2016: \$733/month)
Couple: \$1,103/month (2016: \$1,100/month)

SSI Resource Limits: Individual: \$2,000 (2016: \$2,000)
Couple: \$3,000 (2016: \$3,000)

SGA: Non-Blind: \$1,170/month (2016: \$1,130/month)
Blind: \$1,950/month (2016: \$1,820/month)

Trail Work Period: \$840 or more per month in gross earnings (2016: \$810/month)

Please Note—No COLA was applied to 2017 Social Security benefits; therefore, many, but not all of the figures above did not change from 2016 to 2017. Please review the above figures carefully.

Quarter (credit) of coverage earnings:

To earn a quarter/credit of coverage, a person must have gross earnings of at least \$1,300 per quarter (2016: \$1,260)

Quarters/credits needed:

If a person turns 24 in or before quarter: 1.5 years of work during the 3-year period ending with the quarter your disability began.

After person turns 24, but before quarter she/he turns 31: Work during half the time for the period beginning with quarter after you turned 21 and ending with the quarter you became disabled.

In the quarter the person turns 31 or older: Work during 5 years out of the 10-year period ending with the quarter your disability began.