



Clifford L. Weisberg  
Founder of the Social Security  
Counseling Center

## ANNOUNCING OUR FALL SEMINARS FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Dear Subscriber:

First, I want to thank those of you who have called and sent emails suggesting how we could improve our seminars and what information would be most helpful in your practices.

We will hold our traditional basic seminar on Thursday, September 19, 2019 starting at 9 AM. We are again authorized to give 3 credits of continuing education to both social workers and case managers who attend the full 3 hour program.

The course entitled "Social Security Disability and SSI – The Basics" will cover the essential information explaining the differences and similarities of social security disability and supplemental security income. These are the 2 disability programs available to the seriously disabled. It is essential that all of you, as first responders to the most sick and vulnerable, are equipped with the basic understanding of these two Social Security programs. Our basic course will cover the how, when and where of filing the claim, the typical pitfalls that must be avoided, and how best to provide the medical information to SSA that will hopefully result in the claim being approved. We will go over our list of the 13 items where you, the healthcare provider, can make a vital difference in not only having your claimant approved for benefits but making every effort to have the approval go through as soon as possible. We have now added a 14th difference, namely, reducing the time it takes to get the claim through and paid.

If our basic seminar is not enough, and you are serious about getting as complete a foundation as possible, we are holding an ADVANCED seminar entitled, THE STUFF SOCIAL SECURITY DOESN'T TELL YOU. This course will be offered on September 25, 2019, 6 days after our Basic course, and at the same location and time.

You can register for the basic course on our website. If still interested in getting additional training, the advanced course will be available for registration after the completion of the basics course. The cost for EACH program is \$35.00. Both will start at 9 AM on the scheduled day and conclude at Noon. We are excited to offer this intensive training this Fall, and hope to see you there!

Thank you,

Clifford L. Weisberg  
Attorney at Law

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clifford L. Weisberg".

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Save the Dates!

Basics:  
September 19, 2019

Advanced:  
September 25, 2019

Location:  
Southfield Town Center  
Tower 4000  
Southfield MI 48075

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Register at:  
[www.sshelpcenter.com/events](http://www.sshelpcenter.com/events)



# THE FIRST OF THE 14 DIFFERENCES YOU CAN MAKE IN YOU CONSUMER OR PATIENT'S CLAIM

**The First of the 14 Vital Differences** the social worker, case manager, and healthcare provider can make is managing the claim after it is filed. Often, the claimant will end up moving 2 or even 3 times while the claim is pending. Notices are sent to the last known address and if no response to a mailing from SSA is received, the claim will summarily be denied based on non-cooperation. It is essential that SSA is able to locate the claimant at any given time either by address or phone. They do not communicate via email. Just a simple reminder to your consumer asking if he or she has given SSA the current address and phone number could make all the difference. If they can't find you, they won't pay you. Benefits could be permanently lost. I have known cases where the claim was filed, and in fact after a year thinking their claim is still being considered, it was denied months ago as the notice of denial was sent to the last known address. That means starting over again if it is more than 65 days later than the date stamped on the notice mailed to the last known address. The initial decision should take no more than 4 to 5 months in most cases. There is usually ongoing contact by phone and mail. BUT, once the decision made, it is going to be mailed to the last address on file with SSA.



# CHANGES ARE COMING TO THE APPEAL PROCESS BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER 2019

For several years Michigan and 9 other States were part of a pilot program that after an initial denial, the intermediate step called Reconsideration was eliminated and you would instead file a Request for Hearing. This would bring the case immediately to the Office of Hearings Operations. The case then would be assigned to an administrative law judge and then scheduled for hearing. In all other States you must file for Reconsideration after the initial denial. The claim remains within the jurisdiction of the state agency called The Disability Determination Service, assigned to a new disability examiner, and a review of the earlier DDS decision made. This intermediate step adds several months to what is already a long and drawn out process. Only after a Reconsideration will you be able to file a Request for Hearing. Reconsideration is being added back into the appeal process in the 10 pilot states over the next year. Michigan will return to the traditional process in September. In Michigan, after an initial denial, the next required step will be filing for Reconsideration. If denied on Recon, then and only then will you be able to file a Request for Hearing. The claim is then transferred to a hearing office for assignment to a judge and the scheduling of a hearing date.

## THE 2019 DEEMING BREAKEVEN CHART FOR SSI ELIGIBILITY

Each year we print out the deeming breakeven categories that affect the non-medical eligibility requirements for the SSI program. These categories apply to disabled minor children with significant medical problems living in a household of limited resources. Also covered is spousal eligibility where the healthy spouse is employed and the disabled spouse is not qualified for benefits based on a work record, but would otherwise be **medically** eligible to receive SSI benefits. This can be very confusing, so it is wise to call our Center with questions and obtain guidance **BEFORE** communicating with SSA. As most of you know, there is never a charge for consultation.

*Clifford L. Weisberg*

# 2019 Table of Deeming Breakeven Points

Effective January 2019	Parent to Child				Spouse to Spouse	
	Earned		Unearned		Earned	Unearned
	One Parent	Two Parents	One Parent	Two Parents		
0 Reduction Begins	\$1,667	\$2,439	\$811	\$1,197	\$857	\$406
	\$3,209	\$3,981	\$1,582	\$1,968	\$2,399	\$1,177
1 Reduction Begins	\$2,053	\$2,825	\$1,197	\$1,583	\$1,243	\$792
	\$3,595	\$4,367	\$1,968	\$2,354	\$2,785	\$1,563
2 Reduction Begins	\$2,439	\$3,211	\$1,583	\$1,969	\$1,629	\$1,178
	\$3,981	\$4,753	\$2,354	\$2,740	\$3,171	\$1,949
3 Reduction Begins	\$2,825	\$3,597	\$1,969	\$2,355	\$2,015	\$1,564
	\$4,367	\$5,139	\$2,740	\$3,126	\$3,557	\$2,335
4 Reduction Begins	\$3,211	\$3,983	\$2,355	\$2,741	\$2,401	\$1,950
	\$4,753	\$5,525	\$3,126	\$3,512	\$3,943	\$2,721
5 Reduction Begins	\$3,597	\$4,369	\$2,741	\$3,127	\$2,787	\$2,336
	\$5,139	\$5,911	\$3,512	\$3,898	\$4,329	\$3,107
6 Reduction Begins	\$3,983	\$4,755	\$3,127	\$3,513	\$3,173	\$2,722
	\$5,525	\$6,297	\$3,898	\$4,284	\$4,715	\$3,496

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DISABILITY\* RETIREMENT \* SSI*

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