

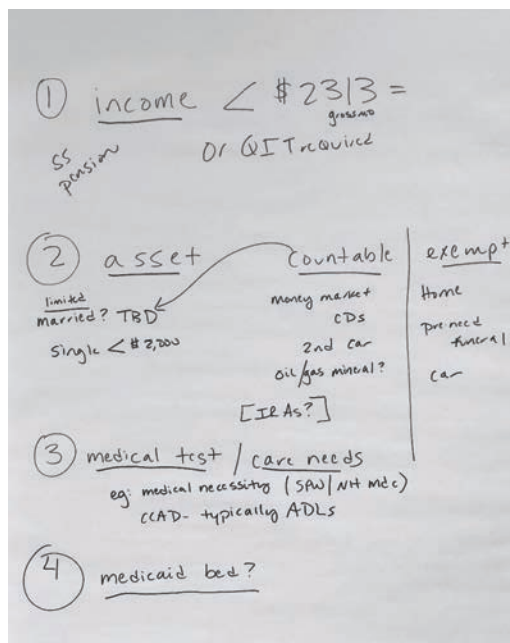
# PROTECTING & MAXIMIZING PUBLIC BENEFITS

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## FOR NEW PRACTITIONERS



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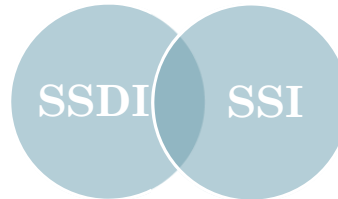
## SSDI & SSI

### Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

- Monthly cash benefit
- Medicare
- Not Means Tested

### Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

- Monthly cash benefit
- Medicaid
- Means Tested



Can be eligible for both

## SSI ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- **Categorical:** Disability, 65+, Blindness
- **Alienage:** Ineligible except certain groups such as:
  - Citizens & aliens entering before 8/22/96
  - Aslyees and refugees
  - Veteran or on active duty in the armed services
- **Income Limits:**
  - \$771/mo. individual, \$1,157/mo. couple; first \$20 exempt
- **Resources Limits:**
  - \$2,000 individual, \$3,000 couple; residence & other exemptions
- Who? No/ little work history

## “SSI INCOME”

- SSI Income includes any Food, Shelter, or Cash
- As of 3/9/05, clothing is not “income.”
- A trust (or an individual) can give an SSI beneficiary **ANYTHING** without affecting eligibility, **EXCEPT**:
  - Food
  - Shelter
  - Cash
  - Other countable “resources”
- An SSI beneficiary can have “household goods” and “personal effects” without limit, provided they are in actual use

## REGULAR (“COMMUNITY”) MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY

- Automatic
  - SSI
  - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
  - Children and Pregnant Women Program
  - Medically Needy Program
- Upon Application
  - Adult Disabled Children
  - Medicare Savings Programs

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## Title search: Protecting & Maximizing Public Benefits

Also available as part of the eCourse

[Answer Bar: Considering a Special Needs Trust](#)

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the  
15<sup>th</sup> Annual Changes and Trends Affecting Special Needs Trusts session  
"Maximizing Public Benefits"