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**The SSI Program and the POMS –
Past, Present and Future**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERVIEW OF THE POMS

INTRODUCTION	5
SOURCES OF LAW FOR THE SSI PROGRAM	5
Statutory Law	5
The Social Security Act.....	5
Regulations	7
Code of Federal Regulations.....	7
Regulations – Trusts.....	8
Statutory Authority for Regulations.....	8
Rulemaking Procedures.....	8
A Helpful Tool.....	9
Sub-Regulatory Guidance	9
The Program Operations Manual System (POMS).....	9
POMS Organization.....	11
POMS Table of Contents (Parts).....	11
Chapter List for Supplemental Security Income.....	11
Subchapter List for Resources.....	12
Section List for Subchapter SI 01120.....	12
Regional Chief Counsel Precedents.....	13
POMS PS – Title XVI Regional Chief Counsel Precedents.....	13
Chapter List for Title XVI Regional Chief Counsel Precedents.....	13
PS 018: Program Requirements – Resources.....	14
POMS PS 01825 – Trusts.....	14
Chapter List for T II Regional Chief Counsel Opinions.....	15
PR - Title II Regional Chief Counsel Precedents.....	15
Emergency Messages.....	17
Administrative Messages.....	17
Navigating the POMS.....	17
Linking to the On-Line POMS.....	19
POMS Search Function.....	20
Social Security Rulings and Acquiescence Rulings.....	20
Social Security Rulings.....	20
Acquiescence Rulings.....	21
WHY ARE THE POMS SO IMPORTANT AND WHY SHOULD I CARE?	22
Congressional Authority.....	22
Deference by Courts.....	22
Comparisons of Types of Judicial Deference.....	26

THE ESSENTIAL SSA REFERENCE LIST	28
Primary References	28
General.....	28
SSI Specific.....	29
Disability Specific.....	29
SSA Secondary References	29
General.....	29
SSI Specific.....	30
Disability Specific.....	31

A Mini Magical Mystery Tour Through the POMS

Introduction	31
Distributions From a Trust	31
SI 01120.201 Trusts Established with the Assets of an Individual on or after 01/01/00.....	32
In-kind Support and Maintenance (ISM)	35
SI 00835.001 Introduction to Living Arrangements and In-Kind Support and Maintenance.....	35
SI 00835.465 ISM and Households - Household Costs.....	37
Temporary Absences	37
SI 00835.040 Temporary Absence from a Federal Living Arrangement (LA)	37
Smart Use of ISM Payments From a Trust	39
Income Rules	41
SI 00815.550 Receipt of Certain Noncash Items.....	42
SI 00815.400 Bills Paid By a Third Party.....	43
SI 00810.410 Infrequent or Irregular Income Exclusion.....	43
Using Trusts With ABLE Accounts and Vice-Versa	52
Transfers From a Trust to an ABLE Account/Income Avoidance.....	52
Support Payments.....	52
SI 01130.740 Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Accounts.....	52
SI 01120.201 Trusts Established with the Assets of an Individual on or after 01/01/00.....	56
The Home	58
SI 01120.200 Information on Trusts, Including Trusts Established Prior to January 01, 2000, Trusts Established with the Assets of Third Parties, and Trusts Not Subject to Section 1613(e) of the Social Security Act	59
SI 01130.100 The Home Exclusion.....	61
Transfer of Resources – Deemors	66
SI 01150.110 Period of Ineligibility for Transfers on or After 12/14/99.....	67
Transfer of Resources – Disclaiming an Inheritance	67

SI 00830.550 Inheritances.....	68
PS 01805.035 New York	
PS 17-027 Would inheritance count as a resource in New York for the purposes of Supplemental Security Income if the claimant renounced her inheritance rights?.....	69
Transfers - Spend Down and Alternatives to Trusts.....	71
Prepayment of ISM and Personal Services Contracts.....	71
SI 01150.005 Determining Fair Market Value.....	72
Transfer of Resources – Exceptions.....	75
SI 01150.121: Exceptions — Transfers to a Trust.....	75
SI 01150.122: Exceptions — Transfer of a Home.....	76
SI 01150.123: Exceptions — Non-Home Transfers to Certain Family Members.....	78
SI 01150.125: Exceptions — Transfers for Purposes Other Than to Obtain SSI.....	79
Reopening Determinations.....	81
SI 01120.201 Trusts Established with the Assets of an Individual on or after 01/01/00.....	81
SI 04070.015 Reopening SSI Determinations.....	81
Conditional Benefits.....	89
SI 01150.200 Conditional Benefits.....	89
SI 01150.201 Conditional Benefits Payments.....	91
SI 01130.140 Real Property Following Reasonable but Unsuccessful Efforts to Sell It Throughout a 9-Month Period of Conditional Benefits.....	95

SSI Trust POMS Update: Changes Since 2018

REFERENCED TRANSMITTALS

POMS SI - Supplemental Security Income

SI 01120.000 Identifying Resources

Transmittal No. 55, October 17, 2018

SI 01120.195 Trusts Established under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) for Minor Children and Legally Incompetent Adult (IGRA Trusts).....	96
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Transmittal No. 56, April 09, 2019

SI 01120.203 Exceptions to Counting Trusts Established on or after January 1, 2000.....	104
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------

Transmittal No. 57, May 14, 2019

SI 01120.200 Information on Trusts, Including Trusts Established Prior to January 01, 2000, Trusts Established with the Assets of Third Parties, and Trusts Not Subject to Section 1613(e) of the Social Security Act.....	105
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------

Transmittal No. 58, 06/26/2019

SI 01120.203 Exceptions to Counting Trusts Established on or After January 1, 2000.....114

Transmittal No. 59, September 25, 2019

SI 01120.204 Notices for Trusts Established on or after 1/1/00.....117

Transmittal No. 63, July 10, 2020

SI 01120.200 Information on Trusts, Including Trusts Established Prior to January 01, 2000, Trusts Established with the Assets of Third Parties, and Trusts Not Subject to Section 1613(e) of the Social Security Act.....124

Transmittal No. 64, October 22, 2020

SI 01120.199 Early Termination Provisions and Trusts.....130

Transmittal No. 65, January 20, 2021

SI 01120.203 Exceptions to Counting Trusts Established on or after January 1, 2000.....136

GN - General

GN 02402 Direct Deposit - Title II and Title XVI

Transmittal No. 154, January 08, 2020

GN 02402.060 Direct Deposit to Trust Accounts.....139

A Look to the Future

The Future of ISM.....141

The Supplemental Security Income Restoration Act of 2021.....143

OVERVIEW OF THE POMS

INTRODUCTION

According to the Social Security Administration (SSA), the Program Operations Manual System (POMS) is a primary source of information used by Social Security employees to process claims for Social Security benefits. I would go further and state that the POMS is the primary source of information used by SSA employees in adjudicating and processing cases. If your practice involves representing clients before SSA or involves any of SSA's programs, you must be familiar with the POMS. There is no substitute. You cannot argue the statute, regulations or case law with an SSA Claims Specialist.

You can use POMS to help you better understand how SSA's rules work. So if you spend time learning about your client's situation and the rules that apply to it, you can be in a much better position to ensure that the rules will be applied properly. If SSA disagrees with your expected outcome, you can ask the SSA staff to direct you to the POMS section that applies and you can see for yourself how they're applying the rule. If you've found some other reference that seems to contradict, you can then ask SSA about this.

There are two issues that may make familiarity with the POMS more difficult. First, according to SSA, the POMS encompass about 20,000 pages and covers all programs administered by SSA. I venture that few people have read the entire POMS and that you will learn something new every time you read a section of the POMS.

Second, the POMS is a living document, an ever-evolving system, with changes being applied nearly every day. While most of the day-to-day changes are clarifications to simplify wording or update annual figures, periodically, entire sections are rewritten and major changes are implemented through a POMS update.

Therefore, the purpose of this session is to provide you with a curated walk through the POMS to familiarize you with their legal foundation and where they fit within the legal hierarchy, their organization and structure, the varieties of issuances and some tips on how to find what you are looking for. We will also look at how the courts view POMS and finally, some other references that may assist you.

SOURCES OF LAW FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI) PROGRAM

Statutory Law

The Social Security Act

To provide for the general welfare by establishing a system of Federal old-age benefits, and by enabling the several States to make more adequate

provision for aged persons, blind persons, dependent and crippled children, maternal and child welfare, public health, and the administration of their unemployment compensation laws; to establish a Social Security Board; to raise revenue; and for other purposes.

U.S. Code

Title 42. THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

U.S. Code
Chapter 7. SOCIAL SECURITY
Subchapters
Sections

Social Security Act
The Social Security Act
Titles
Sections

<u>SS ACT</u>	<u>U.S. CODE</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Title I	[42 U.S.C. §§301-306]	Grants to States for Old-Age Assistance for the Aged
Title II	[42 U.S.C. §§401-433]	Federal Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Benefits
Title III	[42 U.S.C. §§501-504]	Grants to States for Unemployment Compensation Administration
Title IV	[42 U.S.C. §§601-687]	Grants to States for Aid and Services to Needy Families with Children and for Child-Welfare Services
Title V	[42 U.S.C. §§701-710]	Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant
Title VI	[Repealed]	Temporary State Fiscal Relief Administration
Title VII	[42 U.S.C. §§901-912]	Special Benefits for Certain World War II Veterans
Title VIII	[42 U.S.C. §§1001-1013]	Miscellaneous Provisions Relating to Employment Security
Title IX	[42 U.S.C. §§1101-1110]	Grants to States for Aid to the Blind
Title X	[42 U.S.C. §§1201-1206]	General Provisions, Peer Review, and Administrative Simplification
Title XI	[42 U.S.C. §§1301-1320d-8]	Advances to State Unemployment Funds
Title XII	[42 U.S.C. §§1321-1324]	Reconversion Unemployment Benefits for Seamen
Title XIII	[Repealed]	Grants to States for Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled
Title XIV	[42 U.S.C. §§1351-1355]	Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees
Title XV	[Repealed]	Grants to States for Aid to the Aged, Blind, or Disabled
Title XVI	[42 U.S.C. §§1381 note -1385 note]	Supplemental Security Income for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled
Title XVI	[42 U.S.C. §§1381-1383f]	

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