
NONFINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY FACTORS

BLINDNESS AND DISABILITY

In addition to the new definition of disability for children, the law mandates two changes to current evaluation criteria in SSA/SSI regulations:

1. The discontinuation of individualized functional assessment (IFA) for children, and
2. The elimination of maladaptive behavior in the domain of personal/behavioral function in determining whether a child is disabled.

The new definition applies to all applications filed on or after August 22, 1996 (and to applicants whose claims were not finally adjudicated as of that date) and to all redeterminations of childhood disability.

**C. DEFINITION OF
BLINDNESS**

Statutory blindness is central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with the use of a correcting lens. An eye which has a limitation in the field of vision so that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees is considered to have a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less.

An individual's ability to work will not affect eligibility based on blindness.

Note: Blindness alone precludes eligibility under the Poverty Level Aged and Disabled coverage group. An individual must be determined "disabled," as described above, in order to qualify for coverage under the poverty level group. (Blindness does not meet the medical criteria for disability under the PLAD coverage group.)