



Michigan Updates

A Social Security Newsletter for Employment Support Updates



MAY 2014

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Early-Onset Alzheimer's Disease is one of the 225 conditions in our Compassionate Allowances list.

www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances

The graphic features a dark blue background with the text "MENTAL HEALTH MONTH" in white, distressed, hand-painted lettering. Below the text is a detailed illustration of a person's face, rendered in a sketchy, charcoal-like style, showing a look of intense distress or sadness. The person's eyes are wide and staring, and their mouth is downturned. The background of the illustration is filled with faint, overlapping faces, suggesting a crowd or a sense of being overwhelmed. A small Social Security Administration logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the illustration.

May is Mental Health Month.

Early-Onset Alzheimer's Disease is one of the 225 conditions in our Compassionate Allowances list. For those who file for disability benefits, this list allows us to quickly identify the most obviously disabled individuals for allowances based on objective medical information that we can obtain quickly.

www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances

IRS Warns of Telephone Scam



The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) warns consumers to guard against sophisticated and aggressive phone scams targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants, as reported incidents of this crime continues to rise nationwide.

The IRS will always send taxpayers a written notification of any tax due via U.S. mail. The IRS never asks for credit card, debit card, or prepaid card information over the telephone.

Potential victims may be told they are entitled to big refunds, or that they owe money that must be paid immediately to the IRS. When unsuccessful the first time, sometimes phone scammers call back trying a new strategy.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, here's what you should do:

- If you think or know you owe taxes, call the IRS at 1.800.829.1040.
- If you think or know you don't owe taxes or never received a written notification from IRS, then call and report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1.800.366.4484.
- If you've been targeted by this scam, you should also contact the Federal Trade Commission and use their "FTC Complaint Assistant" at www.ftc.gov. Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments of your complaint.

If you receive an email claiming to be from the IRS and asking for your information, do not open any attachments or reply. Instead, forward the email or contact to phishing@irs.gov.

Learn more at www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/IRS-Reiterates-Warning-of-Pervasive-Telephone-Scam

<https://twitter.com/socialsecurity/>



Social Security @SocialSecurity

Receive #disability #benefits & want to work? Ask us for a free copy of "2014 Red Book - A Guide to Work Incentives"
<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/redbook>



Did you know that Social Security has some incredible YouTube videos covering some complicated topics in a simplified fashion?

Check them out to see for yourself at the Social Security channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/SocialSecurityOnline>

Benefit Verification Letters Online, Easy as 1-2-3

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TnpuYJY32Q>

Verifying your clients' Social Security benefits is easy! This webinar is designed for advocates, social service agencies, and other third parties to help promote the use of Social Security's online service options.

Additionally, the webinar will provide information on how individuals can:

Establish a my Social Security account; and
Get a Benefit Verification Letter online at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount/>

Student Earned Income Exclusion (2013)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VosEEXMIBk0>

Did you know that if you are a full time student, you may qualify to have the first \$1,730 (\$1,750 in 2014) of your earned income not count towards your Supplemental Security Income calculations? Watch this video to learn more about the Student Earned Income Exclusion, and how you can may be able to qualify for this credit.

Learn more about student earned income exclusion at
<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-student-earned-income.htm>

Working While Receiving Social Security Disability Benefits (2013)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1D777n8E4g>

Did you know that special rules allow you to work temporarily without losing your monthly Social Security benefits benefit? In this video, learn more about how the trial work period, and how it benefits disability recipients who still desire to work.

Learn more about working while receiving Social Security disability benefits at
<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityresearch/workincentives.htm>

www.socialsecurity.gov/work



**Ticket to Work for People Who Have a Mental Illness:
Support on Your Journey to Employment. Register today for a
free WISE webinar on Wednesday, May 28 at 3:00 PM EDT**

[National Work Incentives Seminar Event \(WISE\) Webinar: Ticket to Work for People who have a Mental Illness: Support on Your Journey to Employment](#)

Wednesday, May 28, 2014, 3:00 PM, EDT

If you are a Social Security disability beneficiary and want to make more money through work, Ticket to Work can provide the support you need to transition to financial independence.

The May 28 national WISE webinar will present information about special Social Security programs and rules that may apply to you! We will share a success story of an individual with a mental illness who found employment through Ticket to Work, and you will also learn from experts about:

- Ticket to Work & Work Incentives
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Where to find more information

Register [online](#) or call 1-866-968-7842 (V) or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY).

You will receive a registration confirmation message with instructions on how to log in to the webinar. Please be sure to check your spam folder. Registration information will also be available [online](#) the day of the webinar.

Check status of your pending claim online

If you have a Retirement, Survivor, or Disability application pending with us, you can check the status of your claim online.

www.socialsecurity.gov/claimstatus



If you applied for benefits, you can check the status of your application online.

Your application status shows:

- The date we received your application;
- Any requests for additional documents;
- The address of the office processing your application; and
- If a decision has been made.

If you receive an error, it may be because:

- You entered an incorrect Social Security number or confirmation number;
- You did not complete the application; or
- We made a final decision on your application more than four months ago.

If anything prevents you from checking your application status online, call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) between 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Future Michigan Updates

If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive future Michigan Updates or removed from the mailing list, send an email to vonda.vantil@ssa.gov