

7) Change in personality and/or marked difficulty maintaining social function

- a) Noticeable personality change (confident to indecisive, extroverted to withdrawn, accommodating to demanding or vice versa).
- b) Difficulty in maintaining friends and former social relationships.
- c) Increased dependency (independent to clingy).

8) Changes in expressions of feelings

- a) Withdrawal or disassociation from activities and/or situations.
- b) Inappropriate or unwarranted anger, frequent crying in one who never or rarely cried.
- c) Dramatic mood swings from happy to sad, stubborn or docile or vice versa.

9) Thinking disturbances

- a) Unwarranted suspiciousness (thinking food is poisoned or that people are stealing things).
- b) Seeing/hearing/touching things and/or people that are not there, imaginary friends or enemies (in mirror or tv).
- c) Imaginary powers such as invincibility.

10) Job performance

- a) Marked change in vocational interest.
- b) Missed deadlines or appointments.
- c) Reduced efficiency on the job.
- d) Catastrophic reactions to problem situations.

11) Other influences

- a) Marked change in acceptance of physical limitations.
- b) Drug or alcohol abuse.
- c) Marked change because of other illness.

Social Security makes disability payments under two programs: 1) the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program; and 2) the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, which provides disability payments for people who have very low income and have not worked long enough to be eligible for SSI. For both programs, the medical and functional requirements for eligibility are the same. Decisions about whether a person meets the medical and functional eligibility requirements for SSDI and SSI are made by the Social Security Administration using many sources of information, including information from the person, the person's family, the person's doctor, and hospitals and other institutions that have provided care for the person. Completing the Personal Profile Form that follows can help you document changes in the person's functioning and ability to work. The Personal Profile Form is not a Social Security Administration form, but the completed form will be useful to you in talking with health care professionals and Social Security Administration staff who are involved in documenting and making decisions about the person's eligibility for disability payments.

The Social Security Administration also has pamphlets and representatives that can help you understand the eligibility requirements for SSDI and SSI and apply for disability payments. You may call toll-free, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY, 1-800-325-0778) or visit the Social Security Administration's website, www.ssa.gov.

If a person's application for disability payments is denied, he or she has a right to appeal that decision. Because of the way Alzheimer's disease and other diseases progress, the frequent uncertainty about date of onset, and other characteristics of these conditions, it may be difficult to determine whether the person is eligible, and disability applications may be wrongly denied. It is advisable to appeal such decisions. Professional advice about appealing a disability decision can be obtained from experienced attorneys. Your local chapter or the National Organization of Social Security Claimant's Representatives (1-800-431-2804) can be contacted for information or to direct you to an attorney who specializes in Social Security law.

