

2100 DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE OF DISABILITY

2101 General. The Counselor will determine the significance of an individual's disability after conducting a diagnostic study that allows for assessing the permanency of the disability, the number of functional capacities limited by the disability, the number of vocational rehabilitation services needed, and the time in service required to complete those services. These criteria are used when determining whether the individual's disability is non-significant, significant, or most significant.

2101.1 Individual with Non-Significant Disability. The following criteria apply for determining whether an individual's disability is non-significant:

A. An individual with a non-permanent disability will be determined as having a non-significant disability, regardless of time in service.

B. An individual with a permanent disability will be determined as having a non-significant disability when completion of the needed services will require *less than nine months*.

2101.2 Individual with Significant Disability (SD). The following criteria apply for determining whether an individual's disability is significant:

A. The individual has a permanent physical or mental impairment which seriously limits *one or more* functional capacities (mobility, communication, self-care, self-direction, interpersonal skills, work tolerances, or work skills) in terms of an employment outcome; and,

B. The individual will require *one or more* vocational rehabilitation services in addition to assessment; and,

C. Completion of the needed services will require *nine months or more*.

2101.3 Individual with Most Significant Disability (MSD). The following criteria apply when determining whether an individual's disability is most significant:

A. The individual has a permanent physical or mental impairment which seriously limits *three or more* functional capacities (mobility, communication, self-care, self-direction, interpersonal skills, work tolerances, or

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work skills) in terms of an employment outcome; and,

B. The individual will require *two or more* vocational rehabilitation services in addition to assessment; and,

C. Completion of the needed services will require *more than twelve months*.

2101.4 Time In Service. For the purpose of determining significance of disability, “time in service” is considered to begin upon implementation of the Individualized Plan for Employment (entering Status 14, 16, 18 or 20) and end upon entering Status 22.

2101.5 Recertification.

A. From SD to MSD. An individual may be recertified from significantly disabled to most significantly disabled at any time if all criteria are met. In such instances, the Counselor will note the appropriate circumstances in the *Action Statement/Details* section of the case record.

B. From SD to Non-SD. An individual who has been certified as having a significant disability is exempt from being later recertified as non-significantly disabled.

2102 ECM and Coding for Significance of Disability

2102.1 General. The Electronic Case Management (ECM) system automatically generates coding for significance of disability from data the Counselor enters into the *Eligibility Certificate* regarding permanency of disability, number of functional capacities affected, number of vocational rehabilitation services the client needs to achieve an employment outcome, and the expected time in service. Correct coding by ECM depends on the accuracy of data reported by the Counselor.

2102.2 SSDI and/or SSI. A separate *Eligibility Certificate* is provided in ECM for those individuals who are SSDI beneficiaries and/or SSI recipients. Completion of this certificate automatically generates coding to classify those individuals as significantly disabled (SD). The Counselor then may change the designation to most significantly disabled (MSD) by determining the number of

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functional capacities affected and the number of vocational rehabilitation services the client needs to achieve an employment outcome. Again, correct coding by ECM depends on the accuracy of data reported by the Counselor.