

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. 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 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 rehabilitation plan, i.e., Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) 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 iECM and Coding for Significance of Disability. The Division has two certificate of eligibility forms: *Standard Certificate of Eligibility* and *Certificate of Eligibility: SSDI/SSI*. The data the Counselor enters on the *Certificate of Eligibility* reflects the number of functional capacities affected, number of vocational rehabilitation services the client needs to achieve an employment outcome, and the expected time in service. The data presented in iECM is based on the information entered by the counselor; therefore, the accuracy of data input is significant.

2102.1 Standard Certificate of Eligibility. This certificate of eligibility is for those NOT receiving SSDI or SSI. The counselor will enter data on the *Certificate of Eligibility* based on the assessment information.

2102.2 SSDI and/or SSI Certificate of Eligibility. A different *Certificate of Eligibility* is provided in iECM for those individuals who are SSDI and/ or SSI recipients. This *Certificate of Eligibility* will be automatically selected based on the information entered on the *Economic Need* form documenting the individual is receiving SSDI and/or SSI benefits based upon the individual’s disability. An individual who is receiving SSDI and/or SSI will be automatically classified as Significantly Disabled (SD). The Counselor then may change the designation to most significantly disabled (MSD) based upon the number of functional capacities affected, the number of vocational rehabilitation services the client needs to achieve an employment outcome, and the expected time in service.