

## *Beginning the Process...*

### Steps for Transition for Families with Students with Significant Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Transitions in life at any age are difficult. When parents with children with significant intellectual and development disabilities face transition from school into life – it becomes a complex bureaucratic maze of programs with lengthy forms and waiting list. Outlined below are 4 items that need to be done to receive services from many services providers. Few providers accept private pay, but most IDD/DD service providers in Mississippi only take Medicaid waiver funds for payment if you meet the IDD criteria.

#### Checklist of Suggested Steps

- Contact Hudspeth and send in Intake Packet ASAP!!!!
- Apply for SSI at age 18, if ineligible due to financial assets before
- Contact Medicaid
- Males – Register for Selective Service at age 18

#### Important – Suggested Steps to Take:

- 1.** After diagnosis of Intellectual or Development Disability at any age, contact Hudspeth Diagnostic Unit to request an evaluation for the IDD Waiver and 1915i community support program. The IDD waiver has a VERY long waiting list that is determined by the eligibility determined by this unit. The Hudspeth intake packet can be found on the MCS Transition webpage. This can be done at any age. **Do not delay! Call today.**

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- 2.** Apply for Social Security Income (SSI) online at <https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/> or make an appointment at the local social security office. At age 18, the parents' income is no longer considered. Even if you are financially able to provide longterm care for your child, there are very few providers in Mississippi that will accept private pay consumers. When a person is eligible for SSI they are automatically eligible for Medicaid. This begins the stage for funding many community support programs that are needed once a student with a significant cognitive disability exits high school.

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides cash payments to people with severe disabilities.

- Children and adults younger than age 65 must have a medically determinable physical or mental impairment that is expected to last (or has lasted) at least 12 continuous months or to result in death.
  - For an adult aged 18–64, the impairment must prevent him or her from earning wages that indicate they are performing substantial gainful activity (SGA) – in 2018 a person will not be able to earn more than \$1180/month for Non-blind disabled, and \$1970 for Blind individuals.
  - For a child, the impairment must result in marked and severe functional limitation. In addition, there are citizenship and residency requirements.
  - If a person meets the criteria for the disability, they look at the financial assets next. To be eligible, an individual must have assets and resources valued less than \$2,000 (\$3,000 for a couple). (From [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov))
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- 3.** Apply for Medicaid after SSI determination – If you are determined eligible for SSI, you will automatically be eligible for Medicaid. You may apply at your local Medicaid office or at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).
  - 4.** All males must register for Selective Service regardless of Disability between the ages 18 – 25. This can easily be done at <https://www.sss.gov/Registration/How-to>

[register](#). Without registering, your son may not be able to receive benefits or services from some Federal programs. You may assist your son in registering with the Selective Service System.

If your son is not confined to an institution or homebound (completely bed bound), he is required to register. Depending on the condition of the young man, while he would not be able to serve in the military in a crisis, it does not exempt him from the Selective Service registration requirement. Even though this may not seem to make any sense, the facts are neither the Military Selective Service Act nor the Presidential proclamation provide an exemption from registration because of a man's mental or physical condition unless Selective Service is provided with documented evidence that the man is hospitalized or institutionalized; or homebound and unable to function outside the home, with or without physical assistance; or is in such a physical or mental condition that he would not comprehend the nature of his registration with the Selective Service System. In these cases, a determination can be made by Selective Service as to whether or not the man qualifies for exemption from registration. Otherwise, Selective Service is not allowed to "classify" men until the Congress and the President authorize a return to the draft in an emergency. Thus, all men must register... even those with obvious disqualifying disabilities.

It is important to know that even though a man with disabilities is registered, he will not automatically be inducted into the military. In a crisis requiring a draft, men would be called in a sequence determined by random lottery number and year of birth. At that time, they would be examined for mental, physical, and moral fitness by the military before being deferred or exempted from military service or inducted into the Armed Forces. They would also be eligible for any deferments, postponements, and exemptions available to all other registrants. A man (or his parents/guardian) would have the opportunity, at that time, to provide any necessary medical documentation needed for exemption. Were a draft to be reinstated and if your son received an induction notice to appear for mental, moral, and physical testing, if you provided the Military Entrance Processing Center that sent his notice with sufficient medical documentation on his disabilities, he would probably not even need to appear for the testing. (From: <https://www.sss.gov/Registration/Who-Must-Register/Men-With-Disabilities>)

By registering, your son remains eligible to take advantage of certain programs and benefits that Congress has linked to a man's Selective Service registration: student

financial aid, federal employment, and job training under the Workforce Investment Act.

**These steps need to be done to receive services from most of the adult service providers in Mississippi. In the last year of school, it is the time to look closely at Service providers. Please review the MCS Linkages documents for a listing of Adult Services Providers on the Transition Webpage.**

*For more information about Special Needs planning, you can access a link on the Transition webpage to a planning guide written by Certified Elder Law Attorney, Richard Courtney.*