

Solutions, Strategies, Answers

Newsletter of the 18 Social Security Administration offices in
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The Autism Spectrum & the Blue Book

It's been commonly called **The Blue Book** because, well, it had a blue cover. Its proper name is **Disability Evaluation Under Social Security** and it provides health professionals with an explanation of SSA's disability programs. It also includes the **Listing of Impairments**. For each major body system, the Listing explains when impairments are considered severe enough to prevent an adult from working. In the case of minor children applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), it explains how an impairment causes marked functional limitations.

To illustrate where the Blue Book fits in the disability decision-making process, let's look at SSA applications based on **Autism Spectrum Disorder**. We selected autism because of its increased numbers over the last two decades. To meet the Blue Book disability requirements ... (1) there must be medical documentation of qualitative deficits in both verbal and nonverbal communication, as well as in social interaction ... *and* ... documentation of significantly restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities. Also, (2) there must be extreme limits of one, or marked limits of two, of the following areas of mental functioning: understanding, remembering, or applying information; interacting with others; concentrating, persisting, or maintaining pace; and adapting or managing oneself.

We do not publish a hard copy of the Blue Book because we update the Listings online. You can find it at [Disability Evaluation Under Social Security \(ssa.gov\)](https://www.ssa.gov/bluebook/)



C'mon, You Know You Want Even More Social Media ... Uh, Don't You?

Yes, yes, we get it. You've had it with social media infringing on your life. A Tik here, a Tok there, everywhere a TikTok. (*BTW, whatever did happen to Old MacDonald?*). Nevertheless, as a loyal employee of SSA who wants to keep his job, I am obligated to tell you that we are on social media! So, there may come a time when you need Social Security info and actually feel like getting it through a video or just browsing online for fun! When the urge hits you, these items might especially be of interest:

SSI: Eligibility Requirements and Application Process.

YouTube, 4 minutes, 57 seconds.

Planning for Retirement. YouTube, 2:21.

Como: Solicitar servicio e informacion en otros idiomas

YouTube, 2:12.

10 Ways to Protect Your Personal Information

YouTube, 2:39.

Open your my Social Security account

Find it on Facebook

70 and older and looking to finally collect?

Find it on Facebook

Careers at Social Security around the country

Check in at LinkedIn periodically to see what's available

We are also on Instagram and Twitter (*now called X*). You can connect to all our social media pages by using this link and scrolling down the left-hand side.

[The United States Social Security Administration | SSA](https://www.ssa.gov/)



So, Just Who is This Little Girl?

Well, this charmer's name is "Fannie" and she was born in Boston in 1880. At the age of 25, she changed her name to "Frances" when she was confirmed in the Episcopal faith. She studied sociology and economics at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, and worked in Philadelphia as a social worker for two years. Moving to New York state, she became a strident advocate for workers' rights. At the capital in Albany, she focused on the need for sanitary regulations for bakeries, fire protection for factories, and legislation to limit working hours for women and children in factories to 54 hours per week.

In 1933, her advocacy efforts moved from the state level to the national stage. President Franklin Roosevelt asked Frances to serve as Secretary of Labor, which would make her **the first woman ever to hold a cabinet position**. She told FDR she would accept if he agreed to certain policy priorities, including a 40-hour work week; a minimum wage; unemployment compensation and workers' compensation; abolition of child labor; and **Social Security**. FDR endorsed them all!

Her many achievements included forging the blueprint of legislation enacted as the **Social Security Act**. This month marks 88 years that FDR signed the Act on **August 14, 1935**. Frances is regarded as the driving force behind FDR's New Deal, credited with formulating policies to shore up the national economy following the Great Depression.

So, the little girl at the top of the page became in every respect a self-made woman. She rose from humble origins to a position as America's leading advocate for industrial safety and workers' rights. Her name? **Frances Perkins**.

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*A big thank-you goes out to the **Frances Perkins Center in Newcastle, Maine**. The Center is the source for much of the information here, including the way cool photo. Check out the Center's wonderful website at [Frances Perkins Center - Honoring the Woman Behind the New Deal](http://FrancesPerkinsCenter-HonoringtheWomanBehindtheNewDeal)*

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Why So Many Different Pay Days?

People often wonder why some Social Security beneficiaries get their check on one day while others get theirs on a different day. It all comes down to **payment cycling**. Every month we make payments to **71 million people** under the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. For many years we paid Social Security to everyone on the third day of each month, with SSI recipients receiving their checks on the first of the month. This check schedule resulted in an increasing and uneven workload pattern that negatively affected the public's ability to gain access to our local offices as well as getting through to our national toll-free 800 number. And with so many people receiving paper checks years ago, the bank lines were very long on check day. In essence, everything was jammed up!

To improve service, SSA implemented payment cycling for Social Security beneficiaries whose claims were filed on or after **May 1, 1997**. Payment cycling provides payment days on multiple Wednesdays, with a person's day of birth determining their individual check day. Here's how it works:

<u>Day of Birth</u>	<u>Check Day</u>
Born from the 1 st to the 10 th	Second Wednesday
Born from the 11 st to the 20 th	Third Wednesday
Born from the 21 st to the 31 st	Fourth Wednesday

Beneficiaries cannot appeal the assignment of a payment day, as there is no provision to change it unless an error occurred that involved the person's day of birth.

When payment cycling began in June 1997, it only affected people who were just starting to receive benefits. People who were already on the rolls continued to receive their benefit on the third of the month. Indeed, today about 32% of beneficiaries still receive on the third.

Payment cycling does not affect SSI payments. SSI recipients always receive that benefit on the first of the month. If they also receive Social Security, they receive that check on the third rather than a Wednesday.

When the regular pay date is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, we send Social Security benefits and SSI payments on the last business day before the weekend or holiday. This ensures that beneficiaries have access to their financial institutions on the day we pay their benefits.
[Schedule of Social Security Benefit Payments - 2023 \(ssa.gov\)](http://ssa.gov)