

February 15, 2023

Ask An Attorney HDAP Monthly Meeting

Agenda:

- Focus Topic of the Month: Understanding and using SSA Jargon
- Open Question & Answer
- Reminder: Benefits Helpline!



Focus Topic of the Month:

Social Security Jargon, Acronyms, and Helpful Lingo

1. Why jargon matters
2. Common terms and acronyms
3. Refresher on reading SSA notices



Using the Right Terms Matters

- Improve clarity
- Avoid misleading and/or confusing answers
- Know who and where to escalate
- Builds credibility with staff



Social Security Programs and Related Benefits Desk Guide pages 25-28

TERM	MEANING	EXPLANATION
DAC	Disabled Adult Child (Title II)	A type of benefit available under Title II.
DIB	Disability Insurance Benefits	Another term used for SSDI benefits.
SDI	State Disability Insurance	Refers to a state-run program for short-term disability benefits. In CA, EDD administers the SDI program. It is not an SSA program.
SSA	Social Security Administration	
SSI	Supplemental Security Income	Program available to low-income individuals who are disabled or 65 or older.
SSDI	Social Security Disability Insurance	Program available to individuals who are disabled and have sufficient work credits to be insured.
Title 2/Title II	Title II of the Social Security Act Frequently used to refer to SSDI.	Laws that cover programs under “OASDI” (Old-Age, Survivor, Disability Insurance) https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title02/0200.htm
Title 16/Title XVI	Title 16 of the Social Security Act Refers to SSI.	Laws related to the SSI Program. https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title16b/1600.htm
UI	Unemployment Insurance	Refers to state-run unemployment insurance programs. In CA, EDD administers the UI program.
WC	Worker’s Compensation	State-funded program paid by employers. Provides benefits to individuals with work-related injuries.

Social Security Offices, Organization, & Structure Desk Guide pages 25-28

TERM	MEANING	EXPLANATION
AC	Appeals Council	Level of appeal after an Administrative Law Judge Hearing.
ALJ	Administrative Law Judge	Individual who decides the case at hearing.
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	
DDS	Disability Determination Service	State agency contracted by SSA to make disability determinations at the initial and reconsideration stages of the SSA claims process.
FO	Field Office	The name for local SSA offices that have responsibility for specific zip codes. SSA also calls these a “DO” or “District Office”
OASDI or Title II	Old-Age, Survivor and Disability Insurance	This refers to all of the SSA programs included in Title II of the Social Security Act. The programs included are: Social Security Retirement, SSDI, Disabled Adult Child Benefits, and Survivor’s Benefits.
OHO	Office of Hearing Operations	The SSA Hearing Office that hears and decides hearing-level appeals. Appeals are decided by Administrative Law Judges (ALJs).
OP	Overpayment	When a claimant has been paid more benefits than they were entitled to, they owe money to SSA. This is an “overpayment.”
POMS	Program Operations Manual System	This is the claims manual that gives detailed instructions to SSA Field Office staff on how to process claims for benefits. It’s their user manual.

Common Social Security Medical Terms Desk Guide pages 25-28

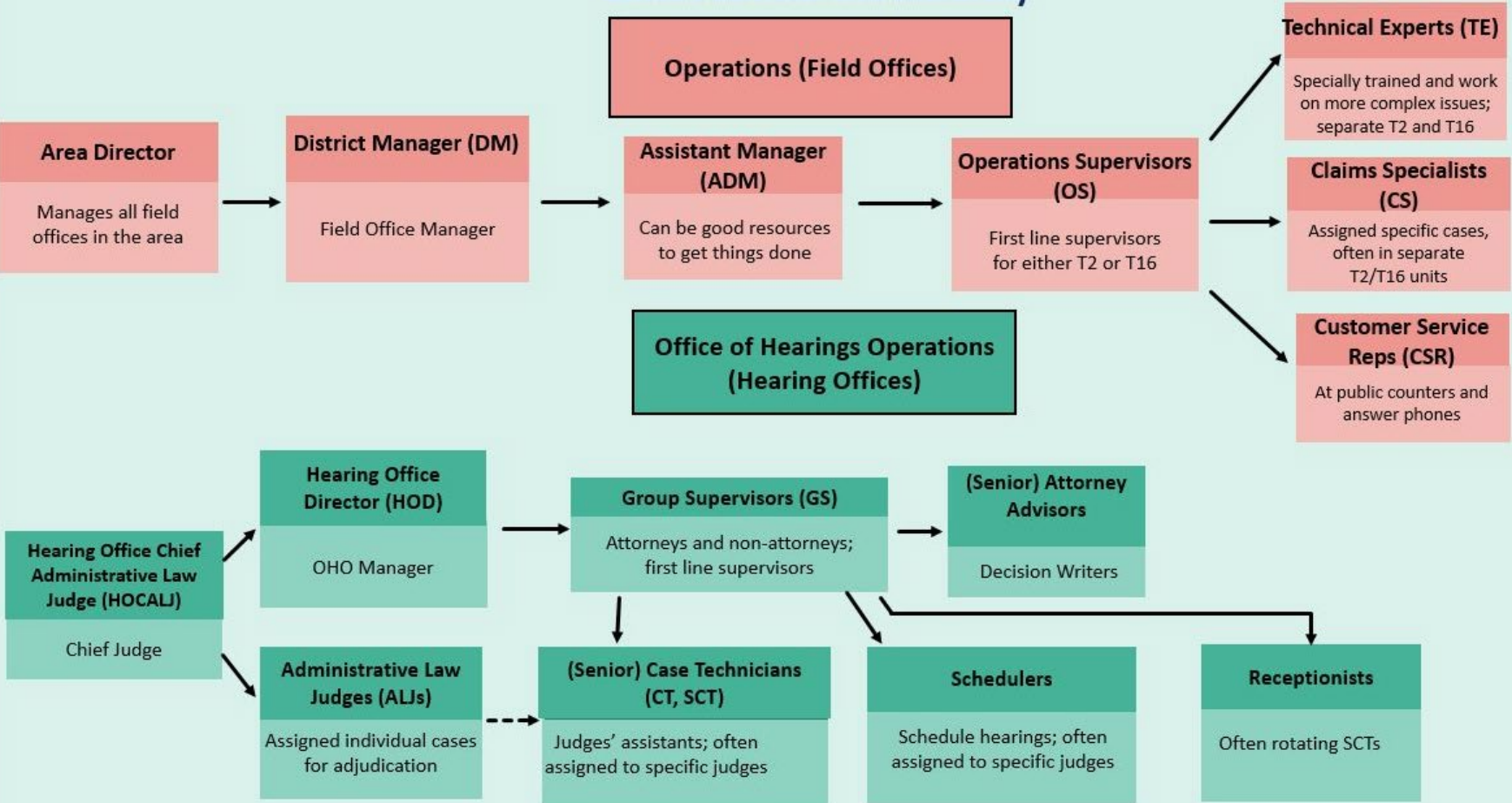
TERM	MEANING	EXPLANATION
ADL	Activities of Daily Living	What a disabled person (claimant) does on a typical day. Gathered in the Function Report.
AOD	Alleged Onset Date	The date the claimant stated in application that they last worked or that they believe their disability began.
CE	Consultative Examination or Consultative Examiner	Doctors contracted by SSA/DDS to do medical exams of claimants in order to gather additional evidence.
DAA	Drug Addiction and/or Alcoholism	Abbreviation SSA uses for substance use disorders.
EOD	Established Onset of Disability	The date that SSA/DDS has determined a claimant was disabled under SSA rules.
MRFC	Mental Residual Functional Capacity	What work-related activities a claimant is able to do from a mental standpoint.
RFC	Residual Functional Capacity	Term used to describe what work-related activities a claimant is still able to do from a physical stand-point.

Social Security Rules and Technical Terms Desk Guide pages 25-28

TERM	MEANING	EXPLANATION
Credits	Previously called “Quarters of Coverage”	The credits that an individual has from paying Social Security taxes while working. One can earn a maximum of 4 credits per year. Most people need 40 credits to qualify for SSDI or Retirement.
DLI	Date Last Insured	The last date on which a claimant is still insured for SSDI benefits. Claimant must prove they became disabled prior to this date or they will not be approved for SSDI.
Earnings Record	Record of what an individual has earned on their Social Security Record	Only earnings on which Social Security taxes have been paid will show up on an Earnings Record. It is used to determine credits and whether an individual is insured.
FICA Tax	Federal Insurance Contributions Act	It is the tax withheld from wages that funds the Social Security and Medicare programs.
Full Retirement Age	The age at which an individual is able to collect their full retirement amount	The age depends on the year you were born. https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/ageincrease.html
Insured Status	Whether or not an individual has enough credits to be eligible for Title II programs	One has insured status if they worked and earned enough Social Security credits to be eligible for benefits (or for their dependents to be eligible) due to the worker’s retirement, disability or death.
ISM	In-kind Support and Maintenance	A term used in the SSI program for when an SSI recipient receives some food and/or shelter for free each month.
PRW	Past Relevant Work	The term SSA uses for the work history that will be looked at in a disability evaluation to determine if a claimant is able to return to work.
SGA	Substantial Gainful Activity	A monthly earnings amount set by SSA (increases each year). Generally, if a claimant earns above this amount in a month they will not be considered disabled by SSA.

Social Security Administration

Office Positions and Hierarchy



SSDI Denial Notice – Date Last Insured

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
RETIREMENT, SURVIVORS, AND DISABILITY INSURANCE
Notice of Disapproved Claims

“Old-Age, Survivor and Disability Insurance” – This notice is just about SSDI

In order to be entitled for benefits your condition must be found to be severe prior to 12/31/2018. The evidence in file is not sufficient to fully evaluate your claim and the evidence needed cannot be obtained. We have determined your condition was not disabling on any date through 12/31/2018, when you were last insured for disability benefits. In deciding this, we considered the medical records, your statements, and how your condition affected your ability to work.

“DLI” & “SGA” – Client is denied because they could perform substantial gainful activity on their date last insured

Information About Substantial Work

Usually, we find that work is substantial if gross earnings average over \$1260 per month after we deduct allowable amounts. This monthly amount is higher for Social Security disability benefits due to blindness.

Hearing Decision & CE Notice



SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

“SSA” “OHO” & “ALJ” –
This notice is from the Office of Hearings Operations. It’s about the Administrative Law Judge’s decision at hearing.

Office of Hearings Operations
Suite 200
605 N Arrowhead Ave
San Bernardino, CA 92401-1157

“AC” – the next level of review is the Appeals Council

If You Disagree With My Decision

If you disagree with my decision, you may file an appeal with the Appeals Council.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Disability Determination Service Division

PO BOX 509135

SAN DIEGO, CA 92150

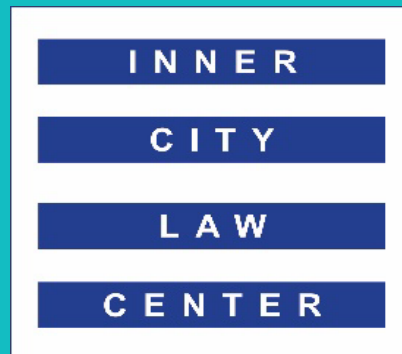
Hearing Impaired Only: Call 711-California Relay Service

“DDS” & “CE” – This notice is from Disability Determination Services and is scheduling a Consultative Examination

Your claim for disability benefits under the Social Security Act has been reviewed and more information is needed about your condition. Therefore, it is necessary that you be examined, at NO COST TO YOU, by:

Asking for Help

ICLC is here to help with your specific questions about SSI/SSDI and CAPI Benefits Advocacy.



Please visit:

<http://www.changewellproject.com/benefits-helpline>