

## **2100 DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE OF DISABILITY**

**2101 General.** The Counselor will determine the significance of an individual's disability status after conducting a diagnostic study that allows for assessing determination of 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 for to complete those services. These criteria are used when selecting between determining whether the individual's disability is non-significant disability, significant disability, or most significant disability.

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

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.

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

~~B. Will require one or more vocational rehabilitation services; and,~~

~~C. The vocational rehabilitation services can be completed in less than six months.~~

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

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 multiple ~~(two or more)~~

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vocational rehabilitation services in addition to counseling and assessment; and,

C. Completion of the needed services will require nine months or more. ~~Those services will require an extended period of time (six 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 ~~An individual who:~~

A. The individual has a permanent physical or mental impairment which seriously limits three ~~two~~ 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 ~~multiple (two or more)~~ vocational rehabilitation services in addition to counseling and assessment; and,

C. Completion of the needed services will require more than twelve months. ~~Those services will require an extended period of time (six months or more).~~

**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.

~~**2101.4 Automatic Classification as Individual with Significant Disability.** An individual who is a Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiary or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipient will be coded automatically as SD. However, if the individual meets MSD criteria, that designation will apply.~~

**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.

~~Once an individual has been certified as having a significant disability, the individual is exempted from being recertified as having a non-significant disability. However, an individual may be recertified from SD to MSD if all MSD criteria are met. In such instances, the Counselor will note appropriate circumstances in the *Action State/Details* section of the client's case record.~~

## **2102 ECM and Coding for Significance of Disability ~~Using iECM to Determine 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.

~~The *Eligibility Certificate* in iECM automatically determines the significance of disability status from selections the Counselor enters for the permanency of the disability, number of functional capacities affected, and the number of vocational rehabilitation services the client needs to achieve an employment outcome. Correct coding depends upon the accuracy of selections made by the Counselor.~~

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