



OVERVIEW OF RESOURCE/ASSET LIMITS FOR SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

WHAT IS SSI?

SSI is a Social Security Administration (SSA) program that provides monthly income to those who are over 65, blind, or disabled as defined by SSA.

WHAT IS AN ASSET OR RESOURCE?

An asset is something (money, property, or belongings) that an individual or household owns. SSI uses the word “**resource**” to mean the same thing. This includes cash, bank accounts, homes, real property, cash value of life insurance policies, retirement accounts, and more.

WHAT IS THE RESOURCE LIMIT FOR SSI ELIGIBILITY?

→ **\$2000 total countable resources for an individual**

→ **\$3000 total countable resources for a married couple**

Some types of assets are not “countable”, meaning that SSA will ignore them when deciding if you meet the asset limit.



Be sure you know the difference between SSI and SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance). SSDI has no asset limit.

WHY DOES THE RESOURCE LIMIT MATTER?

If you have more assets than the limit when you apply for SSI, you will not be eligible. If you already get SSI and your assets go above the limit, you will not be eligible to get any SSI payments for months that your resources are over the limit.

WHOSE ASSETS COUNT?

If you are married and live with your spouse, SSA will count both your assets and your spouse’s assets towards the \$3,000 limit. When a child applies for or gets SSI, some of the parents’ assets will count as the child’s. There are other times when someone else’s assets may count towards your limit. This is called “**deeming**.”

WHAT KINDS OF ASSETS ARE NOT COUNTED TOWARDS THE RESOURCE LIMIT?

According to SSA rules, some assets *do not* count towards the resource limit. These are called “exclusions”. Some common asset exclusions include:

- ✓ Your home, if it is your primary residence
- ✓ One car or vehicle of any value, if used for household transportation
- ✓ Household goods and belongings, like clothes, furniture, electronics, etc.
- ✓ Burial spaces of any value and certain burial funds up to \$1500
- ✓ Retroactive SSI/SSDI payments (but only for 9 months after you receive the payment)
- ✓ Tax refunds (but only for 12 months after you receive them)
- ✓ Grants, scholarships, or fellowships for tuition and education-related fees at an educational institution (but only for 9 months after you receive the funds).

These are only the most common asset exclusions — there are many others that may be relevant to you.



THIS HANDOUT INCLUDES ONLY A PARTIAL LIST OF ASSETS, RULES, AND EXCEPTIONS! IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, SPEAK TO AN ATTORNEY.



You have to tell SSA about any assets when you apply and if anything changes while you receive SSI. SSA can find out if you have certain types of assets. Deliberately hiding assets from SSA is a crime. And giving away assets before you apply or while you are receiving SSI may make you ineligible.