



***ALLISON BARTLETT, ESQ., HDSA'S MANAGER OF DISABILITY PROGRAMS,
WILL BE ON MATERNITY LEAVE FROM LATE APRIL/EARLY MAY THRU MID-JULY.***

MATERNITY LEAVE FAQs

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE DISABILITY PROGRAM?

The disability program is not going anywhere, the disability chat webinar series will take a short hiatus, but all of the previous disability chats are posted online and [can be found on YouTube by clicking here.](#)

There are also multiple disability, legal, and financial planning presentations planned for the Virtual HDSA Convention on June 10-13, 2021. The weekly disability tip will continue, and all disability resources, guides, general information, and [helpful links will still be available on the website by clicking here.](#)

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FAMILIES?

Families will still have access to all of the disability program resources, but they will not have access to direct email or phone consultations with Allison until she returns from maternity leave. This does mean that assistance will be limited and families may not be able to get answers to all of their questions.

WHAT KINDS OF QUESTIONS DO THE ONLINE DISABILITY RESOURCES ANSWER?

There is a wealth of disability planning and Social Security disability application information included in the online resources and disability chat webinars, including:

- Timeline for disability planning;
- What to include in disability planning;
- Information about when to stop working;
- Social Security disability basics;
- How to collect evidence for your Social Security disability application;
- What information to include in the Social Security disability application;
- How to complete the online Social Security disability application;
- How to complete the online Social Security disability appeal; and
- Sample medical letters and support letters from friends and family.

WHO CAN FAMILIES CONTACT WITH DISABILITY QUESTIONS?

Families should contact their Center of Excellence social workers or their chapter/affiliate social workers. Families can also contact Jennifer Simpson, jsimpson@hdsa.org, regarding general Social Security questions, like:

- SSI v. SSDI
- Compassionate Allowance
- Application timeframe

OR families can contact MaryAnn Emerick, memerick@hdsa.org, regarding:

- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Long term care placement and planning