

# Social Security

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## Disability Insurance

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## POLICY INTERPRETATION RULING

# SSR 06-03p: Titles II and XVI: Considering Opinions and Other Evidence from Sources Who Are Not “Acceptable Medical Sources” in Disability Claims; Considering Decisions on Disability by Other Governmental and Nongovernmental Agencies

### PURPOSE:

To clarify how we consider opinions from sources who are not “acceptable medical sources” and how we consider decisions by other governmental and nongovernmental agencies on the issue of disability or blindness.

### CITATIONS:

Sections 205(a), 216(i), 221, 223(d), 1614(a)(3), 1631(d), and 1633 of the Social Security Act (the Act), as amended; Regulations No. 4, subpart P, sections 404.1502, 404.1503, 404.1504, 404.1512(b), 404.1513(a), (d), and (e), 404.1520(a), 404.1527, and subpart Q, section 404.1613, and Regulations No. 16, subpart I, sections 416.902, 416.903, 416.904, 416.912(b), 416.913(a), (d), and (e), 416.920(a), 416.927 and subpart J, section 416.1013.

### INTRODUCTION:

We use medical and other evidence to reach conclusions about an individual's impairment(s) to make a disability determination or decision as described in 20 CFR 404.1512, 404.1513, 416.912 and 416.913. In accordance with sections 223(d)(5) and 1614(a)(3)(H) of the Act, when we make a determination or decision of disability, we will consider all of the available evidence in the individual's case record. This includes, but is not limited to, objective medical evidence; other evidence from medical sources, including their opinions; statements by the individual and others about the impairment(s) and how it affects the individual's functioning; information from other “non-medical sources” and decisions by other governmental and nongovernmental agencies about whether an individual is disabled or blind. See 20 CFR 404.1512 and 416.912.

### **Medical Sources**

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The term “medical sources” refers to both “acceptable medical sources” and other health care providers who are not “acceptable medical sources.” See 20 CFR 404.1502 and 416.902.

*Last reviewed or modified 06/24/2013*











