

## 12.2 DEFINITIONS OF DISABILITY AND BLINDNESS

**NOTE:** Incapacity is defined in Chapter 15.

### A. DEFINITION OF DISABILITY

The definition of disability for Medicaid purposes is the same as the definitions used by SSA in determining eligibility for SSI or RSDI based on disability.

These definitions are as follows:

#### 1. Individuals Age 18 Or Over

An individual who is age 18 or over is considered to be disabled if he is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity due to any medically determined physical or mental impairment which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, or can be expected to result in death.

#### 2. Individuals Under Age 18

The child who is under age 18 is considered to be disabled if he has a physical or mental impairment which can be expected to last for at least 12 months and which severely interferes with his process of maturation. Maturation refers to skills and emotional and social development.

An individual under age 18 is not considered a child if he:

- Is legally married, or
- Is divorced, or
- He is living in a common household with a member of the opposite sex, and they are holding themselves out to the community in which they reside, as husband and wife, or
- He is over age 16 and has been emancipated by a court of law.

### B. DEFINITION OF BLINDNESS

To meet the definition of blindness, the individual must have

- Central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with corrective glasses, or
- A limited visual field of 20 degrees or less in the better eye with the use of eyeglasses.

C. CONSIDERATION OF MEDICAL AND SOCIAL FACTORS IN DETERMINING DISABILITY

In determining whether or not an individual is disabled, medical and social factors and the relationship between the two must be considered.

If the medical information indicates that the individual has an impairment which has lasted or can be expected to last the required length of time, social factors must be examined to determine the effect of the impairment on the individual.

When a case is referred to MRT for a disability decision, the Worker completes form ES-RT-1, Social Summary Outline. This form is designed to identify the social information used by the Worker in making a presumptive decision and by MRT in making the final disability decision.