

This information leaflet provides information on the social rights of the disabled

1. Who is considered to be disabled?

An individual is considered to be disabled who due to health problems and limitations of life activity is in need of social protection.

2. Which body establishes the person's disability?

The person's disability is established by socio-medical expertise agency of the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, which is considered to be the authorized state body in the socio-medical expertise sphere.

3. Where and how to apply for disability recognition?

For disability recognition an individual needs to apply to the polyclinic of one's constant place of residence, where after necessary investigations, form 88 will be filled out and submitted to the regional socio-medical expertise commission. For double expertise a disabled person may immediately apply to the socio-medical expertise commission.

4. What status is granted to the disabled and on what terms?

A disabled person is granted 1st, 2nd and 3rd group of disability status and children under 18 are granted a status of disabled child by the authorized state body in the socio-medical expertise sphere. The disability is established for a 1 year period, for a 2 years period, until the age of 18 or for perpetuity. 1st group disability is established for a 2 year period, 2nd and 3rd group disability are established for a 1 year period and the status of "Disabled Child" for a 2 year period or till the age of 18.

The disability group status is perpetual when:

- a) persons have attained the age of 63
- b) rehabilitation measures are not available or social activity cannot be recovered
- c) rehabilitation measures must be ongoing
- d) loss of eye or sight is irretrievable

5. What is a socio-medical expertise?

Socio-medical expertise is the decision of illness based on types of rehabilitation and social protection of the evaluation of life activity limitations due to the disfunction of the body.

6. What is the social protection of the disabled?

Social protection of the disabled is a system of economic, social and legal measures, which provides conditions of overcoming, substituting (compensating) the limitations of life activity of the disabled and the possibility of their participation in social life equal to other citizens.

7. What is rehabilitation of the disabled and how is it implemented?

Rehabilitation of the disabled includes medical, professional and social measures, which are directed to the abolition or possible compensation of limitation of life activity of disabled persons. The rehabilitation of the disabled is implemented according to individual project of rehabilitation for a disabled person.

8. What is a basic project of rehabilitation for a disabled person?

The basic project of rehabilitation for a disabled person is a guaranteed list of free of charge minimal rehabilitation measures, services, technical and contributory means for a disabled person implemented by means from the state budget.

9. Are the disabled provided with prosthetic-orthopedic devices?

The disabled are provided with prosthetic-orthopedic devices based on the individual rehabilitation project. The provision of prosthetic-orthopedic and rehabilitation devices is regulated by the RA law on "Social Protection of the Disabled" and April 12, 2007 N 453 decision on "establishing the regulation of provision of prosthetic-orthopedic devices, rehabilitative technical and other contributory means and the terms of their usage".

10. Who can acquire a wheelchair and where to apply for it?

The 1st group disabled and disabled children under 18 are provided with wheelchairs based on the conclusion made by the regional body of the RA socio-medical expertise agency. For getting a wheelchair it's necessary to apply to the regional body of the RA socio-medical expertise near one's place of residence.

11. From where, how and on what terms can a disabled person get a wheelchair?

In order to get a wheelchair the disabled or his/her representatives should apply to the rehabilitation department of the RA socio-medical expertise agency (address is Armenakyan 129) by submitting the disabled person's passport (the representative also needs to submit his/her passport), the copy of the certificate certifying the disability, and the conclusion of the regional body of the RA socio-medical expertise for the necessity of the wheelchair. A contract is concluded in the department according to which the disabled person is provided with a wheelchair in the "Prosthetic-orthopedic" CJSC (address is Tsarav Aghbyur 55a). The disabled person gets the wheelchair for a period of four years.

12. Who can acquire a hearing aid at the expense of the RA state budget?

Disabled persons and old age pensioners are provided with an hearing aid based on relevant medical documents.

13. What documents are necessary and where to apply for acquiring a hearing aid?

In order to acquire a hearing aid it's necessary to take a reference about the type of hearing aid from the audiology republican center and go to the regional agency of social service.

14. From where, how and on what terms can a disabled get a hearing aid?

In Yerevan the disabled person gets a hearing aid from the rehabilitation department of the RA socio-medical agency (address is Armenakyan 129) and in regions one gets it from socio-medical expertise commissions by submitting their passport, copy of the certificate certifying the disability, the conclusion of medical institution implementing audiometer investigation. The disabled person gets the hearing aid for a period of four years.

15. Do the disabled have the right to get medical assistance and service free of charge?

The disabled have the right to get free of charge medical assistance and service in medical institutions and polyclinics that receives state funding.

16. What kind of privileges do the disabled have?

World War II disabled veterans have the privilege:

- a) to make public utilities payments with 50 percent of discount including apartment, sanitation and subscription fees of telephone and radio;
- b) to get free of charge medical assistance and service including medicine within the frameworks of state funding;
- c) once a year to travel in CIS countries with privileged conditions.

17. Who can get social service in housing conditions?

In housing conditions single elderly pensioners and disabled adults can get social service by applying to the "Center of Social Service of single elderly persons and the disabled in housing conditions" (Harav-Arevmtyan B1 area, telephone 74-04-02/) Social service and care are provided to the single elderly and disabled by 4 boarding houses and the "Center of Social Service of single elderly and disabled in housing conditions". There are 4 acting boarding houses under the supervision of the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, three of them are general (N 1 in Nork, Yerevan, boarding house for old people and for disabled in Gyumri and one is special (mental facility).

"Center of Social service of single elderly and disabled in housing conditions"

There are 1200 single elderly (who have attained the age of seniority pension) and 1st, 2nd groups of disabled regardless of age, who are under the supervision of the "Center of Social Service of single elderly and disabled in housing conditions". The center has the following service:

- Housing services and care;
- Medical assistance;
- Socio-psychological assistance;
- Legal consulting

18. Which legal act regulates the conditions and amount of pension for disabled servicemen?

The conditions and amount of pension for disabled servicemen is regulated by the RA law on "The social protection of servicemen and their family members". Disability pension is allocated for servicemen recognized disabled by state body of socio-medical expertise, if they are recognized disabled:

- a) during military service
- b) within 5 years from being dismissed by regulation when a serviceman becomes disabled as a result of illness and injuries received during military service.

The reasons for disability pension allocation are the illnesses and injuries received during the military service.

Disability pension of servicemen is allocated in the following amounts:

- a) to the 1st group of disabled a monthly pecuniary amount sufficient to compensate for 70 percent of food expenses, but not less than 200 percent of the basic pension stated by the RA legislation.
- b) to the 2nd group of disabled a monthly pecuniary amount sufficient to compensate for 60 percent of food expenses, but not less from 150 percent of the basic pension.
- c) to the 3rd group of disabled a monthly pecuniary amount sufficient to compensate for 40 percent of food expenses, but not less than 150 percent of the basic pension.