

In this way, you keep your social security rights intact and keep your benefits from being reduced by not counting the years when you had no earnings or your earnings were low. But for a totally blind person to receive monthly disability benefits, it must be shown that he is unable to work because of his loss of eyesight. If a person has such poor eyesight that it keeps him from working, but he is not totally blind under the definition of blindness in the law, he will be eligible to receive disability benefits under the same conditions as a person with some other kind of disability which prevents him from working.

### **Getting the Evidence and Making a Decision**

If you are applying for disability insurance benefits, or childhood disability benefits, you are responsible for getting medical evidence concerning your disability. When you make your application, your social security office will give you a medical report form on which

medical evidence can be supplied. You will be asked to take or mail this form to your doctor and to places where you have been treated for your condition. The social security district office will help you in every way possible to fill out your application and get the necessary evidence.

On the medical report form which your doctor or a hospital, institution, or agency fills out for you, they are asked to give the medical history of your condition: what the doctors have found to be wrong with you, how severe it is, what medical tests have shown, and what treatments you have received. *They are not asked to decide whether or not you are "disabled" under the social security law.*

When this medical evidence has been obtained and put into your file by the social security office along with other available evidence on your education, experience, and other abilities, the complete file is sent to an agency of your State under an agreement between the State and the Federal Government.