Once the income has been split, if the spouse at home receives less than $2057.50 (effective 7/2018) per month after adding his/her personal income (plus his/her share of the joint income) then the spouse at home may keep part of the nursing home spouse's income in order to bring his/her monthly total up to at least $2,057.50.

If the spouse at home has living expenses that are very high, he/she may appeal to keep more of the nursing home spouse's income up to a maximum of $3,160.50 (effective 1/2019) per month. Appeals are filed with the Division of Family Resources.

If the at home spouse's personal income plus his/her share of the joint income is more than $3,160.50 per month, he/she cannot keep any of the nursing home spouse's income.

The spousal in the nursing home must contribute his/her income to pay for nursing home care, but may keep a personal needs allowance of $52 per month.

**Let's look at Jake & Emily:**

They own $100,000 in countable assets and their total monthly income is $1,600. Jake is being admitted to a long term care facility.

Emily may keep all of her income (checks made out in her name, plus her half of the income that is jointly owned). If Emily's income is lower than $2,057.50 a month, she can keep part of Jake's income.

Checks made out in Jake's name, plus his half of the jointly owned income is considered his income and must be used to pay for his cost care. Medicaid would then pay the remaining costs.

**What Happens to Income?**

**Personal Income**
- Income in your name remains your own. (Social Security, Pension, etc.).
- Income from assets in your name remains your own.

**Jointly Owned Income**
- Income from assets owned by both spouses is considered by Medicaid as jointly-owned income. Jointly-owned income is divided in half, with each spouse getting a half.

The spouse at home may keep all of his/her personal income.

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**What Happens to Assets?**

Most assets are considered by Medicaid as joint assets between a husband and wife; it doesn't matter in whose name they are placed.

- **Maximum** - half of all countable assets, up to a total of $126,420
- **Minimum** - at least $25,284

A person may appeal to keep more assets. Figures effective January 1, 2019

**Example: (Jake and Emily)**

Half of the joint countable assets amount to $50,000. Since $50,000 is less than the maximum allowed amount under this law ($126,420), then Emily is able to keep all of her portion of the assets.

Emily and Jake would need to spend Jake's $50,000 down to $3,000 before Medicaid would begin to help pay for his nursing home costs.

**Protection under the Spousal Impoverishment law applies to nursing home care, and under the Medicaid Aged and Disabled Waiver, for in-home and community-type care services.**

**CAUTION! Transferring of assets:** Persons who transfer assets to get Medicaid help, may be required to wait longer before Medicaid will help pay for nursing home costs. Other penalties may also be applied.
The Spousal Impoverishment Protection Law provides spouses of Medicaid nursing home residents or spouses of individuals on a Medicaid Aged & Disability Waiver financial relief from losing all income and assets in order to pay for their spouse’s care.

How do you find out more?

1. Review this brochure for a brief explanation of the Spousal Impoverishment Protection Law.

2. Contact the Division of Family Resources at 1-800-403-0864 or at http://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/2999.htm.

3. Call the Senior Law Project office nearest you or an elder law attorney.

4. Contact your local State Health Insurance Assistance office (SHIP).

SHIP
1-800-452-4800

STATE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
www.medicare.in.gov

- Medicare
- Medicare Supplement Insurance
- Help for low income Medicare beneficiaries
- Long Term Care Insurance and the Indiana Long Term Care Partnership Program

1-800-452-4800

STATE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
www.medicare.in.gov

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is a free, unbiased counseling program provided by the Indiana State Department of Insurance

SHIP will answer your questions, or will refer you to the appropriate agency or a local SHIP site for personal assistance.

The Spousal Impoverishment Protection Law (1/1/2019)