

What to Do to Increase Chances that Social Security Disability Application Will Be Approved

Q: When is a person eligible for social security disability?

A: You can apply for social security disability benefits when you can no longer work, due to your condition. You are eligible if your injury will keep you from working for at least 12 months. As it often takes months for an initial decision to be made regarding a claim, make sure to submit your application for social security disability insurance as early as you can. You can apply for back payments for benefits, if you are approved for social security disability benefits. Regardless of how quickly your application is processed, you will not be able to receive benefits until 6 months after your date of onset. You will not be awarded retroactive benefits for that period of time.

Q: How do I apply for social security disability insurance?

A: You can apply for social security disability benefits online at www.socialsecurity.gov or by calling Social Security at 800.772.1213. You will then be scheduled for an appointment with a representative assigned to your case. That interview can be done in person or via telephone. Your claims representative will be your point of contact through the application process and will assure that you fill out the appropriate paperwork. If you are unsure if you qualify for SSDI (social security disability insurance) or SSI (supplemental security income), your claims rep can help you. He or she will also walk you through any application for back payments of social security disability benefits.

Q: Is there anything I can do to increase the likelihood that my social security disability claim will be approved?

A: A fair number of applications for social security benefits are not approved. You can, however, improve the likelihood that your application is approved. The first task is to simply make sure you applied correctly and completely. By staying in touch with your claims representative, you can easily know if anything required is missing. Having a supportive doctor who is willing to be your advocate can also help bolster your social security disability case. By providing a comprehensive statement regarding your condition, your doctor will give your claim a solid foundation. In addition to applying correctly and having a thorough statement from your doctor, assure that your medical records have been given to your claims representative. The main reason most social security disability applications are postponed is because of a wait on medical records. Lastly, be cooperative, meet deadlines and check in on your file. Finally, make sure you do not miss deadlines for paperwork, keep in touch with your claim representative to know where your file is in the process and always be courteous (no matter how frustrated you may get at times.)

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