

Will a Spouse Be Able to Receive Social Security Benefits?

Q: SSA says I am no longer disabled and wants to cut off my social security benefits. What do I do?

A: Your benefits should continue as long as your injury or condition still prevents you from working. There are several reasons Social Security may decide that you no longer qualify for disability. Your file will be reviewed from time to time to make sure it contains all current information and any changes to your injury or ability to work. These reviews can take place from every six months to every seven years, depending on the type of disability you have and the expectation of your recovery. During one of those reviews, it may be determined that your injury or ability to work no longer qualifies as a disability.

The SSA may also consider you no longer disabled if too much time has passed without your having seen a doctor. Keep in mind that your continued eligibility to receive social security benefits is affected by information and background regarding your case. If you do not have the proper documentation of your disability, your benefits may suffer. If you are working and are earning above the minimum sustainable amount, your benefits could also be discontinued. If your benefits have been discontinued and you do not agree with the decision, it would be wise to consult with an attorney specializing in social security issues.

Q: Will SSA pay me to care for my disabled spouse?

A. Generally, no. While the SSA will provide social security benefits to the spouse of a disabled person who qualifies for social security, there are strict conditions. Benefits are usually only awarded to the spouse if he or she is taking care of a dependent child under the age of 16.

Other aid programs and assistance for caregivers can be obtained, though. Most of these, such as Medicaid, require you to meet certain qualifications and complete training. Speak to a social security lawyer for more information.

Q: Are the eligibility guidelines that same for both VA and social security disability?

A: Not in all cases. The VA and the SSA work with completely different systems in determining disability. Unlike the VA, social security benefits are not given on a partial or full basis. That being said, your VA determination will be helpful for your social security benefits eligibility review process. The help of a social security attorney may be beneficial to help you through the process.

About the Author

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