

Social Security Disability Benefits and Employment

Q: How long can you expect to wait until you hear a decision about your social security disability claim?

A: Unlike some other government programs, social security disability benefit claims do not have to be processed in within a certain amount of time. Many claimants have experienced years of waiting before their cases make it through the application process. Others, make it through the process very quickly. The norm for a social security disability case being reviewed for the first time is about ninety days. There are many factors that can influence the length of time it takes for your application to be reviewed. Although you cannot control how long it takes for your social security disability claim to be processed, you can assure that certain factors will not delay it. The number one reason cases are held up is due to a wait for medical records. It is helpful to confirm that all requested medical documents have been sent and received. Participate in any exams your claims representative may request. Contact your case manager if you need to cancel or postpone an appointment. Incomplete or lack of current data about your condition will slow the review process and, possibly, eventually cause a denial of benefits. Get in touch with the representative handling your case, if you make any changes to your contact information. And do not ignore notifications or informational requirements sent to you by social security. The representative handling your social security disability application wants to reach a decision too, so be polite and helpful. Finally, be your own advocate and know where your case is in the review process by periodically contacting your claims representative about the status.

Q: Do you have to wait 5 months before you apply for social security disability benefits?

A: You should apply for social security disability benefits as soon as you become injured and know that your condition will prevent you from working for at least 12 months. You do not have to wait a certain period of time before you submit an application. A decision on a case can vary from months to years, so it is advantageous to submit your application for benefits as soon as you can. If you are awarded benefits, you will not be eligible for your first payment until after a 5 month waiting period after the date of onset of your condition.

Q: Are you allowed to work part time when you are waiting for a decision regarding social security disability insurance?

A: Yes, you can work while you are awaiting a decision regarding your application for social security disability. The factor that influences your eligibility for benefits is not the employment itself, but how much income you make. If you make more than the SGA amount, you will not be eligible for benefits. That monthly amount is currently just under \$1000 pretax. Reference [Orlando social security lawyer](#) .

About the Author

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