

## Can a Caregiver 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. A variety of situations may cause the SSA to determine that you are no longer disabled, and that you should no longer receive social security benefits. The SSA will do periodic reviews of your case to determine the current level of your disability and qualification for social security benefits. The reviews can be conducted at various stages and schedules, based on your particular condition and situation. During one of those reviews, it may be determined that your injury or ability to work no longer qualifies as a disability.

Another reason benefits may be discontinued is if you have not been evaluated by your physician in quite some time. Keep in mind that your continued eligibility to receive social security benefits is affected by information and background regarding your case. Your benefits could be in jeopardy if you have not provided the required or current documents for your file. You may also be considered no longer disabled if you have returned to work and are earning at a "substantial" level. 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.

However, there are programs available that offer payment to caregivers. 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. Social Security and Veterans Affairs determine eligibility differently. 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. It is a good idea to speak to a social security lawyer or advocate for more information.

## About the Author

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