

When Can You Apply for Social Security Disability Insurance?

Q: How long does a typical social security disability benefits claim take?

A: Unlike some other government programs, social security disability benefit claims do not have to be processed in within a certain amount of time. Some cases take years to receive a decision. Decisions on other cases can be made within months. The average review time for an initial application for social security disability insurance is three to four months. 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. A common cause for delay is medical documents that have yet to arrive. 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. A decision cannot be made regarding your claim, if the representative handling your application does not have thorough or updated information about your injury. Always confirm that your case manager has updated information regarding your address and phone numbers. And do not ignore notifications or informational requirements sent to you by social security. It is important to cooperate when your social security disability case is being reviewed. 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 can submit an application for social security disability if you have an injury and it is expected to keep you from your employment for a year or more. You do not have to wait a certain period of time before you submit an application. The review process for a claim can be lengthy, so it is best to apply as soon as possible. There is a required waiting time of five months after the onset date of your injury before you can receive your first benefits check, but there is no waiting period for applying. Q: Can you work while your social security disability claim is pending?

A: You are allowed to be employed and receive social security disability benefits. The amount you earn, not the fact that you are working, is what will affect your entitlement to benefits. You cannot earn above the limit Social Security has established as substantial gainful activity. The SGA limit for 2008 was \$940 per month before taxes. References [Veterans lawyer](#) | [Disability attorney](#) |

About the Author

Research on [social security disability attorney](#), link to [attorneysforsocialsecuritydisability.here12.net](#).

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