

## How Long Do Social Security Benefits Continue?

Q: Who qualifies for social security benefits through the disability insurance program?

A: To qualify for social security benefits, your condition must prevent you from working for at least a year. The condition can be mental or physical in nature. For your application for social security benefits to be approved, you cannot earn more than the limit set for such benefits. Currently, that amount is just under \$1000 per month before taxes. It also must be demonstrated that you cannot take on some other kind of employment. To determine "other work" eligibility, Social Security considers your education, age and the type of employment you had prior to your injury.

Q: Do disability [social security benefits](#) have a time limit?

A: You will collect social security benefits unless one of three things happen. Your social security benefits will be suspended, if your injury resolves completely or enough for you to become a part of the workforce again. Some people decide they would rather not depend on social security benefits and take on regular employment in a different type of work. Benefits would no longer continue in that case. If you become old enough to retire, your social security benefits would also stop. You would receive retirement payments, in lieu of disability payments. Social Security does conduct periodic reviews of all cases. It is your duty to keep your claims representative informed of any changes to your medical condition or changes in employment.

Q: After I apply for social security benefits, how long does it take to be notified of a decision?

A: The average time it takes for an initial social security benefits claim to be reviewed is a little over 3 months. It is hard to determine, however, the length of time your claim may be under review. A decision on an application for social security benefits can be made in 30 days. And a decision may not be made on others for a couple years. By assuring that you have submitted thorough details and the necessary forms in a timely manner, you can increase the likelihood that your social security benefits claim will not hit any snags. The main reason most claims are delayed during the initial review process, is due to lack of or incomplete medical records. A lawyer who specializes in social security benefits can be invaluable, if you have any concerns about the length of time your claim is taking.

## About the Author

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