

## Can You Apply for Social Security Disability in Person?

Q: If I cannot work, how am I supposed to support myself while applying for social security disability?

A: Waiting for a decision on a social security disability insurance claim can take months or years. Finding ways to get by in the meantime can be worrisome for some claimants. Knowing that the review process can take time, a first step is to plan ahead financially. Do not make any unnecessary purchases, especially large ones. Regardless of what you can afford now, resist temptation to spend. Put any money you save by cutting discretionary spending aside to help you through the time it may take to reach a decision about your [social security disability](#) claim. Some claimants restructure their financial obligations to help them through. Some utility companies, for example, offer low income energy assistance programs. Refinancing a mortgage or other loan to free up funds can be an option. Some applicants are fortunate to have loved ones that can help them with financial support during the interim period. Look into aid programs to help with doctor bills and medication. You need to continue to go to the doctor. Many charities offer assistance to pay for medications. Look into state health assistance programs. Find free clinics, if need be, for routine visits. Talk to your doctor about restructuring payment plans. Knowing that you are applying for disability, billing departments are more willing to work with you. You may also consider applying for local, state and federal public benefit programs. Some states offer assistance loans that you must pay back once you receive a decision on your social security disability claim. Section 8 housing aid or food stamp programs may be helpful if your wait is long. If you are in financial dire straights, you might consider talking to a social security attorney. It is possible that you qualify for dire need aid with the agency. Dire need status can grant you financial assistance and help your case be processed more quickly.

Q: Can you go to the Social Security office to submit your social security disability application?

A: The three methods for filing for social security disability benefits are in person, via the telephone or via the internet. It is often recommended that doing it in person is the best method. Meeting with your claims representative will give you one on one communication. The claims representative will have a chance to observe you functioning with your current injury or condition, and you have a chance to introduce your case. This initial meeting sets the stage for the rest of process. To request an initial appointment in person, call Social Security and tell them you would like to apply for social security disability insurance in person. You will then receive a confirmation of the scheduled appointment via mail.

Q: When should you expect notification of a decision on a social security disability case?

A: The duration can range anywhere from months to years. The average time for a complete application to go through the initial review stage is 3 months.

## About the Author

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