

Are SSI and SSDI Both Social Security Disability Benefits?

Q: Does the work history of a person affect the determination of a social security disability claim?

A: Past employment is important to your disability case. Determining whether social security disability insurance should be given is in part dependent upon the work a person could do, in spite of his current medical condition. The disability examiner for your case will, therefore, look at your employment record to see the types of work you have performed in the past. Social Security also looks at your previous employment to determine if you might be able to do another kind of job. A social security disability claims examiner uses standard medical vocational principles when evaluating an application. The age of an applicant, academic history and limitations caused by the medical condition are all factored in. This grid helps them decide if a person is capable of doing any of his previous employment or other employment. The medical vocational grid still leaves a lot of room for error. The limitations of a condition and the need for social security disability insurance are very difficult to fit into a simple set of guidelines. The claims manager will still need to use some common sense and subjectivity to determine if a person can perform work. Your record of previous employment is usually the second most important aspect (next to medical condition) in establishing whether benefits should be awarded.

Q: Are SSDI and SSI the same thing?

A: SSDI and SSI are disability benefits, but they are quite different in their requirements. An individual qualifies for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), if he has earned the minimum amount of credits through his work history by contributing to social security through his taxable earnings.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is awarded based on financial need. An individual does not need to have worked enough to have accumulated work credits to be awarded SSI.

Q: What is the average wait for an initial claim to be processed?

A: If all the required paperwork is submitted and filled out correctly, the average time for a claim to be initially reviewed is 90 days. Lack of medical information is the biggest reason many applications take more time than the average. To lessen the likelihood that your case will take longer than the average, make sure the examiner handling your application has all the necessary items to review your case. If you receive notification that your social security disability claim was not approved after the initial review process, you will probably wish to have it reconsidered and (if necessary) heard before an administrative judge. Having a case reconsidered and heard before an administrative judge will make your claim take even longer. Many cases have been in the process for 2 years by the time they are heard. Resources [Social security attorney orlando](#)

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