

How Long is the Social Security Disability Process?

Your Average Wait Time At Each Level of Your Case

People often ask us how long the Social Security Disability process takes, and they are often surprised by the answer. From start to finish, the whole process can potentially take over two years; however, we've had some clients approved in four months and others in two years. Those with extremely dire ailments are usually approved a lot sooner than those whose disability requires a lot more review of medical diagnosis and treatments. Detailed below are the different stages of the application process and the potential length of time you may have to wait for a decision at that level. If you are approved, you won't have to go any further in the process. If you are denied, you or your attorney will appeal the decision at the next level.

Applying for Social Security Benefits

Whether applying for SSDI or SSI, the actual completion of the application may only take a couple of hours. The applications require information regarding your medical history, education, former employment, and financial situation. An SSI application requires an in-person or phone interview, whereas a SSDI application can be filed online.

The Initial Review

Once you submit your application for disability, your wait for a decision may take several months. Some applicants qualify for expedited review under the compassionate allowances program. Majority of individuals must undergo additional reviews with the SSA examining the effects of their medical condition on their everyday abilities.

How Long is the Disability Application Wait?

On average, compassionate allowance applicants receive a decision within a month to two months. The average wait for most applicants ranges from three to six months. Insufficient documents such as medical evidence may cause a delay in a response. During this process, Social Security may also request the applicants to complete additional questionnaires and attend consultative examinations with a doctor social security contracts with. These additional processes can add weeks to the wait time.

Reconsideration Review

If you're denied benefits at the initial level, you may request a reconsideration of your claim. The average wait at this stage is also three to six months. The average varies based on whether your local office is backlogged. When you request a reconsideration of your claim, you may submit additional medical evidence which may increase your chances of approval. However, submission of additional evidence lengthens your wait time.

Hearing Level

If you are denied at the initial and reconsideration review level, you may file an appeal to continue your claim and to be heard before an administrative law judge. The wait time to have your claim heard before a judge is approximately an average of 18 months. This used to be 12 months in Atlanta and these days some people

may even wait 24 months

A large majority of cases usually end up going before judge at the hearing level. Sometimes, cases are denied at this level, and additional appeals can be filed. All of this takes time. What's important to remember is that continuing treatment is crucial during such a long process, not only for your health but to provide the medical evidence needed to support your claim. If you have an attorney, make sure to stay in constant communication with their office and provide all the documentation they request to help move your claim along.

National Diabetes Month:

Awareness

Diabetes is a disease where the blood glucose levels are above normal. Diabetes affects over 29 million people in the U.S. and unchecked can result in serious health problems and even death. Some people are born with diabetes while other develop it. For most people, diabetes is preventable with the right diet and exercise. People that are at risk may be overweight, have family members with diabetes, be 45 or older, have high blood pressure, and/or cholesterol levels are not normal.



Reduce Your Chances

The good news is that diabetes can be managed. A few ways to manage diabetes and even prevent diabetes if you are at risk is to eat healthy, be physically active, and maintain a healthy body weight. Typically food that is low in fat, sugar, and calories will help you lose weight if that is your goal. By taking care of yourself, you also reduce your risk for heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, blindness, and neuropathy. It may not always be easy, but managing diabetes can lead to a healthier and happier lifestyle.

How To Establish Diabetes as a Claim for Disability

You can definitely claim diabetes as a severe impairment to receive Social Security Disability benefits. Over the years, we have successfully represented hundreds of clients with diabetes type I and type II. So how can you qualify for disability if you have diabetes? Well, we have to show through your medical records that your diabetes is not being well controlled by medication and a proper diet. And that requires a showing that despite a proper diet and being compliant with your medications you have glucose (your blood sugar level) levels that are above 150 and an A1C (the blood sugar concentration in your blood for a duration of 3 months) that is consistently above 7. The stronger cases are the ones where the claimant is receiving insulin shots as well as the pill form of medication, and still the glucose and A1C levels are not within normal range. Also, signs of neuropathy with swelling, problems with vision, sores on your feet, and easily getting sick make for a strong case for disability benefits. But it is again important to point out the earlier points of this article in regards to eating healthy and maintaining a good lifestyle. When we take a diabetes case to court, one of the first questions the Judge asks the claimant is "what is your diet and how do you stay compliant with your doctor's diet recommendations?" Being compliant with your medication and health restrictions are key not only to a good Social Security disability case but to your overall health.

November Speaking Engagement:

*Sara & Holly speak to the parents at FOCUS
about Child/Young Adult Disabilities*



As it is our annual tradition now, Sara and Holly joined the families at FOCUS on November 10th where they presented to a wonderful group of parents about Child Supplemental Security Income, Disability benefits for young adults, and the parents options with Guardianships and Conservatorships. We are so proud to work with FOCUS on a consistent basis; they are a wonderful organization that we refer our clients to who are seeking support from a community of other parents and professionals who also have children with disabilities. FOCUS provides comfort, support, care, and resources to families with special needs children. A big shout out to Elizabeth Hewell who hosts us and keeps inviting us back every year.

Happy Veterans Day:
Thank you for your service!



Thank you to all the veterans who have so bravely defended our country both domestically and on foreign soil. One day a year is not enough recognition for the sacrifice that you and your families have made for our country. Know that we are thankful everyday for your service and sacrifice!

Happy Thanksgiving:
A Time To Give Thanks

Thanksgiving is the time of year where people give thanks for the blessings in their life. This is a good opportunity to reframe our current circumstances and remember what those blessings are. This one simple act often gives us the perspective we need to see everything we have to look forward to even during a trying time in our life. We're thankful for the opportunity to continue to serve our clients every day.

The Khaki Law Firm team will be enjoying an office Thanksgiving on Tuesday November 29th!



Administrative Announcements

Happy Birthday Sara Khaki:



Happy Birthday to KLF Owner and Attorney Sara Khaki!
We hope you had the best of birthdays, and hope all your wishes come true.
Thank you for being an amazing boss!

Calendar of Events: November 2016

- 11/2: In Court; Atlanta, GA
- 11/3: In Court; Atlanta, GA
- 11/6: Election Day
- 11/8: In Court; Atlanta, GA
- 11/9: In Court; Atlanta, GA
- 11/10: Sara and Holly speaking engagement at FOCUS
In Court; Covington, GA
- 11/15: In Court; Atlanta, GA
- 11/16: Happy Birthday Sara Khaki!
In Court; Atlanta, GA
- 11/17: In Court; Atlanta, GA
- 11/24: Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed
- 11/25: Office Closed
- 11/29: Office Thanksgiving Celebration
In Court; Gainesville, GA
- 11/30: In Court; Atlanta, GA
In Court; Augusta, GA



Contact Us!

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