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SSA Announces New Option to Submit a Disability Update Report *And What You Should Know*



On November 3, 2020, the Social Security Administration (SSA) released a new digital option to submit a Disability Update Report (also referred to as Form SSA-455). Before this change, an SSA beneficiary would be mailed the Disability Update Report to complete a physical copy.

SSA beneficiaries must periodically complete a Disability Update Report to provide the SSA with updated information on an individual's medical condition and treatment plans. This form is part of the SSA's Continuing Disability Review (CDR) process which verifies whether a person is still eligible to receive disability benefits.

Details of the Online Disability Update Report

The online Disability Update Report form can be accessed on the SSA's website. An individual will need to provide identification information, including a social security number and current address. Additionally, contact information, such as a phone number and valid email address, will be required.

Once the form is completed, a digital signature confirmation will be emailed to the beneficiary recipient. It is important to note that individuals must confirm their digital signature to successfully complete their Disability Update Report.

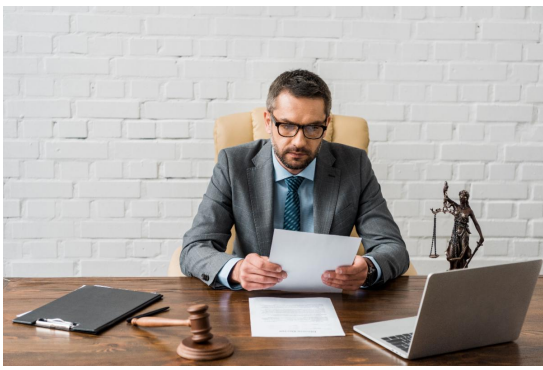
How Do I Know if I have to Submit a Disability Update Report?

The SSA will periodically review cases to verify that a recipient is still eligible for disability benefits. The frequency at which a case is reviewed may depend on the nature and severity of the condition claimed. If a condition is expected to improve, the SSA will generally review a case every six to 18 months.

If improvement is not expected, it may be as long as seven years before a case is reviewed. However, an SSA beneficiary will receive a notification in the mail if they need to provide a Disability Update Report.

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Social Security Disability: On the Record Decisions *How to Prepare for Your Claim*



Any individual who has been denied Social Security disability benefits has the right to appeal that decision. On the Record (OTR) reviews are available and recommended to individuals moving forward with the appeal process. An OTR decision is made by an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) prior to an appeal hearing. To secure a favorable OTR decision, you must provide sufficient medical evidence to prove your disability without the need for further clarification.

How to Get an OTR Review

To become eligible for an OTR review, you must first request an appellate hearing with the Social Security Administration (SSA) within a certain amount of time after receiving a denial. From there, there are two ways to receive an OTR review:

1. A hearing officer may initiate the OTR review if enough supporting evidence is submitted as a part of your case; or
2. You can request an OTR review. It is unlikely that another party involved in the hearing process will initiate an OTR review, so it is generally up to you to request one. You should make the request to your local Office of Hearings Operations, state why you require disability benefits, and include specific medical evidence supporting your disability claim.

What Happens Next?

After you successfully submit a request for an OTR review, you can expect one of three outcomes. First, an attorney adjudicator may contact you for further information regarding your request. In the event your medical evidence was not clear enough, the attorney adjudicator may need more information such as the onset date of your disability.

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Do I Need an Attorney for My Social Security Disability Claim?

What You Should Know About the Process

Applying for Social Security Disability Benefits might seem like it is a straight-forward and easy undertaking, though it is a lot more involved than one would think. You may go through all the levels of the review process on your own; however, statistically claimants who are represented by an attorney have a higher success rate than unrepresented claimants.



What to Know About the Initial Application Process

Many of those who are starting the application process think it is as easy as filling out some forms, and then submitting them. Unfortunately, it is not that easy. While it does require filling out extensive paperwork, it also includes personal information and medical records. It is easy to make mistakes or errors that could compromise your eligibility.

Benefits of Working With an Attorney

While 60% of all initial applications are denied, hiring an experienced firm prior to applying can help immensely increase your chances of approval and help you avoid the appeals process. A Social Security Disability firm will be familiar with the Social Security review process and the rules that govern eligibility. They can assist you in compiling the necessary documentation to prove, beyond a doubt, that you are disabled and eligible for disability benefits.

An attorney can also review the information in your initial application to find any inconsistencies or missing elements that are crucial to proving your disability. The information in your initial application remains a part of your permanent claim for benefits. This means that any errors or omissions may have an affect your claim throughout the entire process.

If your claim has already been denied, or you are starting the application process and do not have representation, contact us at (678) 228-8688 to see how we can help.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968

This month, we celebrate Atlanta native Martin Luther King, Jr. As the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner, Time magazine's Man of the Year, along with many other accolades, Martin Luther King Jr. dedicated his life to the mission of equal civil rights for all. Following his assassination in 1968, President Ronald Reagan officially signed into law the creation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. His "I Have a Dream" speech has gone down in many history books as one of the greatest speeches ever given. Brutally honest, a call to action, and a vision of hope, King's speech resonated throughout the nation.



Client Testimonial:

Thank You Serg C. For The 5 Star Review!

Thank you for the wonderful review Serg! At The Khaki Law Firm, we provide our clients the legal guidance they need to live the life they deserve. Our mission is to zealously advocate for the disabled and injured members of our society while adopting a holistic approach to an unpredictable disability process that incorporates empathy with excellent communication skills and quality care derived from our guiding values and our drive to always be ahead of the Social Security Administration. If you need help with your social security disability case, call us at (678) 228-8688.



"From the beginning of taking on my case The Khaki Law Firm has been there step by step, especially during these very difficult times we are all experiencing. The team members that I worked with over the phone were very patient and helpful throughout the whole process leading up to my hearing. I would definitely recommend their services to anyone in need of representation. Thanks again to The Khaki Law Firm for your time, patience, and support."

THE
KHAKI
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DISABILITY LAW

-Serg C.

Calendar of Events: January 2021

January 1: Offices Closed; New Years Day!
January 11: In court; Virtual
January 12: In court; Virtual
January 13: In court; Virtual
January 14: In court; Virtual
January 15: In court; Virtual
January 21: In court; Virtual
January 26: In court; Virtual
January 27: In court; Virtual
January 28: In court; Virtual
January 29: In court; Virtual



Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, all in-person Social Security Disability Hearings have been rescheduled to a telephone hearing. Contact us at (678) 225-8688 if you have any questions.

Contact Us!

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