

Social Security Disability Application Process:

1. Application – if denied find out why.
2. If denied they will do a review. 2nd application
3. Hearing to review booking 12-14 months out. A judge will review all information. Make sure all doctor notes are in there. If you have more than one diagnosis make sure to include all notes. Make sure to accurately describe why you cannot work.
4. Appeals – wait time is about 18 months. Can go Federal all the way up to the Supreme Court if needed. 25% win rate a the Federal level.

About 35% of applications goes through on the 1st time.

Make sure to have all doctors documentation along with all test results and diagnosis.

What is your functional status?

1. Be specific – how has this illness/illnesses impacted your life and what are your restrictions?
2. Do NOT go on vacation during review time. That will look bad to the judge.

If the review process deems you must see a psychologist – they are required to see you for at least 40 minutes. Make sure that happens so they know the whole picture.

You can bring your own family member, friend or neighbor. Make sure to coach them first saying why you cannot work and 'stay on topic'. Don't let them ramble – that is when things fall apart.

Your doctor may not be the best option at the hearing.

If you stop work on January 2012 you will not get your 1st check until June 2012. Lag time.

SSI – financial need only.

SSD-based on earnings record 5 out of the last 10 years worked to qualify. If you stop work in 2006 you must file before December 2011. Can work a 9 month trial period but if you make >\$1,000 in gross wages you do not qualify.

Adult disabled child – has a disability before the age of 22 can go off of parents accounts.

You will not get disability if you are involved in a felony at the time you become disabled.

Brain damage – go to a neuropsychologist for evaluation. Must be 'qualified' to do proper testing and create good clinical notes. Good to have processing speeds in the notes.