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The Social Security Star

Social Security Adds New Online Tool And Notices For Disability Claims

Social Security recently announced major enhancements to **my Social Security** accounts — expanding self-service options and the notices available to individuals navigating the disability claims and appeals process. The new tools provide you with greater visibility, faster access to information, and more efficient case processing throughout the lifecycle of a disability claim. If you have not created your personal **my Social Security** account yet, get started today at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

What’s New in **my Social Security**?

Submit Disability Adjudication Forms Online: You can now complete and submit disability adjudication forms directly through your personal **my Social Security** account, including:

- Form HA-4631, Recent Medical Treatment.
- Form HA-4632, Medication Information.
- Form HA-4633, Work Background.

Online submission helps ensure adjudicators receive information quickly and supports more efficient case processing.

Track Disability Claim Status Online: If you have a pending disability claim, appeal, or recently adjudicated claim-you can now view the status of your case online at the Hearings and Appeals levels. The Claim Status Tracker provides real-time updates, processing time estimates, and key milestones throughout each level of adjudication. Features include:

- Notification when the hearing office receives a Request for Hearing.
- Status updates as the hearing office reviews information and prepares the case for hearing.
- Status updates when a hearing decision is issued.
- Appeals Request for Review status updates, receipt of review requests, and completion of actions.

Access Proffer Letters Securely: You can securely access proffer letters in the **my Social Security** Message Center. A proffer letter is a notice sent when new evidence is added to a case after a hearing, allowing claimants to review and respond before a decision is made.

Access 26 Additional Social Security Notices in **my Social Security Message Center:** You can view electronic copies of your hearing-related notices by logging into your personal account. The following notices are among those now available for digital release to accountholders:

- Notice of Hearing.
- Request for Good Cause for Late Filing.
- Request to Withdraw a Hearing Request.
- Postponement of Hearing.
- Amended Notice of Hearing.

You may opt to receive email or text notifications when new documents are available. We will continue to mail paper notices to you and your appointed representatives. This enhancement supports faster case processing and timely communications.

We continue to increase the functionality of *my Social Security* to ensure that the more than 100 million Americans with accounts have a seamless experience when accessing their personal information. With an account, you have 24/7 access to your personalized retirement benefits and 1099 forms, can receive tailored notifications, request a replacement card, manage benefits or estimate future benefits, request replacement documents, check the status of pending applications, and conduct other services anytime, anywhere, without needing to visit an office or wait on the phone.

Please visit www.ssa.gov/myaccount to create a personal *my Social Security* account. For more information about our services, visit www.ssa.gov.

Most Social Security services are available online by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov, and by calling Social Security toll-free at 1 (800) 772-1213 or 1 (800) 325-0778 TTY

Remember, visit www.ssa.gov/agency/emergency/ for up-to-date information about Social Security Office Closings and Emergencies. Subscribe to state or territory specific updates!

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF DISABILITY: A LEGACY OF SUPPORT AND SERVICE

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the creation of the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program, marking our commitment to supporting Americans with disabilities. SSDI was enacted on August 1, 1956, when President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Social Security Amendments of 1956. Since then, SSDI has become a cornerstone of our nation's commitment to support American workers whose lives were changed by disabling illness or injury.

For seven decades, the SSDI program has provided essential support to millions of workers with disabilities and their families. It is a lifeline offering

stability and hope to the American people during life's most challenging moments.

The Social Security Disability Insurance Program Today

Currently, more than eight million Americans with disabilities rely on SSDI. Over the last year, we have significantly improved service delivery for those receiving disability benefits. This includes:

- Reduced Wait Times:** At the initial determination level, wait times have been shortened by over 25 percent since fiscal year (FY) 2024, with decisions now arriving 40 days faster than in January 2025. For those filing both initial and reconsideration claims, wait times have decreased by 47 days.
- Achieved Historic Lows in Hearings Wait Times:** The average wait time for hearings has reached all-time lows, with virtual service channels now representing over 90% of all customer hearings, making access more convenient and efficient.

- **Increased Productivity:**

Disability examiners now clear 13 percent more cases per week than in FY 2025.

Administrative Law Judges are completing nearly 20 percent more cases per day and expect to finish 25,000 more cases by the end of FY 2026 compared to FY 2025.

- **Expedited Decisions:**

Through the Disability Examiner Decisional Authority (DEDA), experienced examiners can make fully favorable determinations in certain cases, resulting in over 150,000 expedited decisions since 2025.

In addition, our digital-first approach has prioritized:

- Operational enhancements to streamline case management and ensure timely, fair service for all applicants.
- Leveraging data and technology to enhance service delivery and transparency, ensuring the agency is prepared to

meet future needs with greater efficiency and care.

- Initiatives like the *Ticket to Work* program, which empower beneficiaries with opportunities for rehabilitation and employment. Learn more at www.ssa.gov/work/overview.html.

Updates To Your Personal *my Social Security* Account

We also recently announced major enhancements to *my Social Security*, expanding self-service options and the notices available to individuals navigating the disability claims and appeals process. Earlier this year, we surpassed 100 million *my Social Security* accounts, a milestone that reflects the public's growing confidence in our digital services.

If you do not have a personal *my Social Security* account, you can create one at www.ssa.gov/myaccount—and get immediate access to a full suite of online services.

As we celebrate this milestone, we acknowledge the promise our nation made to its workers—a promise of security, dignity, and

support in times of need. We continue to work with Congress, outside advocates, and the American public to strengthen Social Security, and serve this country for generations to come.

To learn more about SSDI, visit www.ssa.gov/disability, and be sure to share this information with those who may benefit.



ACTIVE MILITARY AND VETERANS: DISCOVER ALL YOU CAN DO ONLINE WITH SOCIAL SECURITY

Whether for your next mission, your family's future or life after service, you already know the value of planning ahead. Your personal *my Social Security* account helps you do just that. It's the most convenient way to do business with Social Security, anytime and from any internet-connected device. If you have not created your personal *my Social Security* account yet, get started today at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

What Veterans can do with an online account

With your **my Social Security** account, you can securely access your information, manage your benefits without visiting a field office and keep an eye on your personal records. Whether you're transitioning out of the military, working in a civilian career or already retired, your account moves with you.

If you're already receiving benefits, you can:

- Set up or change direct deposit, including to a new bank after a relocation.
- Get a Social Security 1099 (SSA-1099) form for tax time.
- Print a benefit verification letter if a lender, landlord or other agency needs proof of income.
- Change your address when your duty station or home address changes.

If you're not currently receiving benefits, you can:

- Apply for benefits and check your application status online.

- Access personalized retirement benefit estimates to help plan alongside your military retirement or VA benefits.
- See estimates for your spouse's benefits to support your family's financial planning.
- Get proof that you do not receive benefits if another agency or program requests it.

You can also request a replacement Social Security card (in most states and the District of Columbia) without visiting an office.

For a full list of services, including those for businesses, government agencies and organizational payees, visit Social Security's Online Services webpage at www.ssa.gov/onlineservices.

Expanded 24/7 access for your schedule

Whether you're working shifts, going to school on the G.I. Bill or balancing family and reserve duty, Social Security's online features are available around the clock. You can securely manage your information whenever it fits your schedule—not just during office hours.

Log in and get started

Visit Social Security's website to sign in or create your personal **my Social Security** account. Explore everything you can do online, securely, conveniently and at your fingertips.

Social Security also has a dedicated Information for Military and Veterans webpage at www.ssa.gov/people/veterans. There, you'll find:

- A side-by-side comparison of VA compensation and Social Security disability.
- Details on expedited disability claims for some wounded warriors and Veterans.
- Additional resources tailored to your military service and benefits.

Share this information with your family and Veteran network so they can go digital and sign up for their personal **my Social Security** account today.



STUDENT REPORTING AND SOCIAL SECURITY: WHAT STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND EDUCATORS NEED TO KNOW

Social Security provides vital benefits to children of retired, disabled, or deceased beneficiaries. While payments typically stop at age 18, they can continue for full-time students.

If a student is 18 and still in secondary school (grade 12 or below), benefits generally last until graduation or up to two months after turning 19, whichever occurs first.

Three months before the student's 18th birthday, we send an expiration warning notice. Parents and students must act immediately on these instructions to prevent any income disruption.

Action Plan: Form *SSA-1372-BK*

To maintain eligibility, the student and school must complete Form *SSA-1372-BK*—including the Advance Notice of Termination of Child's Benefits and Student's Statement Regarding School Attendance sections:

- Student: Complete and sign page 2.

- School Official: Verify and certify the details on page 3.
- School Official: Keep pages 4 and 5 (Notice of Cessation) at the school.
- Submission: Mail or deliver certified pages 2 and 3 to the local Social Security office.

You can download the form at www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-1372.pdf. For more information on our children's benefits, we invite you to download our publication, *Benefits for Children*, at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10085.pdf.

School counselors, social workers, and parents play critical roles in tracking deadlines and signing off on attendance. To assist them, we provide a free, downloadable *Educator Toolkit* perfect for classroom lessons or informational school webinars.

It includes:

- Lesson plans and talking points.
- Student infographics and handouts.
- Interactive quiz questions and answers.

We invite you to learn more and download the toolkit at www.ssa.gov/thirdparty/groups/educators.html.

Completing Form *SSA-1372-BK* accurately and promptly ensures that eligible students maintain their financial support without interruption. Please share this information with students, parents, and teachers in your life.

5 SOCIAL SECURITY YOUTUBE VIDEOS EVERYONE SHOULD SEE TODAY

Social Security programs, benefits, and resources are here to support you throughout life's journey.

On our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/socialsecurityonline, you'll find easy-to-understand videos that explain everything you need to know.

Whether you're planning for retirement, managing your benefits, or creating your personal *my Social Security* account, our channel offers helpful videos for every step of your journey. If you have not created your personal *my Social Security* account yet, get started today at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

Start with These Five Videos

1. What is *my Social Security*? – Learn what a personal account is, why it matters, and how to create one - www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFmSHpg-ib4.
2. How Social Security Retirement Benefits Work – Find out how our retirement benefits work, who may qualify benefits, and what you need to know before you apply - www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CU3QR2eIj0.
3. The Disability Journey – Understand the disability application process and get answers to common questions - www.youtube.com/watch?v=coacxl8g68o&list=PLGSYaN04xzFXReUvSpC1n_k_8oRmcKsq&index=7.
4. Supplemental Security Income (SSI): Eligibility Requirements & Application Process – Learn who may qualify for SSI and how to apply www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jdg6QtxQ2LI.

5. How to Spot a Scammer – Learn the warning signs of Social Security related scams and how to protect yourself and your family - www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyaUWTFw3c&list=PLGSYaN04xzH9sAO9HXI4U-6kFXmzUxzN&index=9

These are just a few of the many videos available on our YouTube channel. We regularly add new content, so subscribe and check back often for the latest information and updates.

If you find this information helpful, please share it with your family, friends, and anyone who may benefit.

Make or change an appointment

Schedule an appointment if you want help. We'll also let you know if you can complete your task online.

Visit

<https://www.ssa.gov/manage-benefits/make-an-appointment>

Change or cancel an appointment

Using the link in the confirmation email or text message we sent when you scheduled the appointment.

Get help with appointments

Call 1-800-772-1213 or

TTY 1-800-325-0778

Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 7:00 pm