

## Social Security Benefits FAQ

Social security regulations are labyrinthine, and working out which social security benefits you are allowed to receive can be challenging. To make the process easier, here are answers to some of the questions frequently asked by applicants for disability benefits.

SSA is only for people whose disability is complete and who have been disabled (or are expected to be disabled) for one year or more, so there are no partial disability social security benefits. If you wish to file for partial disability, you will need to do so through a state or local program. Being denied disability benefits from SSA will not automatically disqualify you from receiving benefits through state and local programs.

However, if you are disabled but able to work for short periods or at a low level, you may be able to continue working while receiving social security benefits. Your total income will be taken into account by the state agency that handles your social security case. If you can still work but your maximum possible income falls below a certain amount, you can still collect disability benefits. Note that your highest POTENTIAL income, not your CURRENT income, is the deciding factor: If you could earn above the minimum by changing to a different job that you are trained to do and physically capable of doing, then you will be considered ineligible for social security benefits. You will not be pressured to do work you are not able to perform. The state agency takes into account applicants health, age, experience, and education when evaluating which jobs they are suited to do. If you would be able to support yourself if you switched to a better job, training and job search assistance are available

Many applicants are confused and annoyed by their social security agents request to continue seeing doctors even after they have doctors statements that there is no available medical treatment for the applicants condition. If you are in this position, there is an explanation! First, your regular doctors may not be able to provide all of the information the state agency needs to evaluate your case. The agency will arrange for you to see a doctor who has the specialized experience or equipment necessary to complete the examination. The examination is part of your case evaluation, not a part of your treatment plan.

Second, disability is not always permanent, and even untreatable conditions can improve. It is a good idea to have regular examinations to track the progress of your condition. Even without treatment, your condition may improve enough to allow you to return to work.

And third, medical science comes up with treatments for "untreatable" conditions every year. Why let resignation steal a possible cure from you?

Occasional doctors visits are a minor nuisance compared to the vast improvements you could someday see.

## About the Author

Information on social security benefits, visit [this page](#).

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