

Social Security Disability Claim Process

Applicant files claim at local Social Security Office. → Field Office sends claim to DDS where it is assigned to a Disability Examiner.

Disability Examiner analyzes relevant medical and employment records to determine whether SSA's disability criteria are met.

If additional medical evidence is needed...

DDS schedules and sends applicant for a Consultative Examination (CE). CE report is completed by independent consultant and returned to the DDS for review.

If there is sufficient medical evidence to make a decision...

Disability Examiner receives advice from In-house medical and psychological consultants and makes determination based on Federal regulations. DDS then notifies SSA of the determination.

SSA notifies applicant of the final determination.

Disability Examiner – DDS employee who reviews application and may contact application for more information about disability.

Medical/Psychological Consultant – Licensed doctor, contracted by DDS, who helps assess the applicant's physical or mental disability.

Consultative Examination (CE) – Exam that may be ordered and paid for by DDS to gather more information about the applicant's condition.