



CLAIM TIMELINE*

Initial Application

You must be out of work for 1 year or more or expected to be out of work for 1 year or more to qualify for benefits. Most cases are denied at this level.



6 Months

Recommended time out of work before we file your application.



3 to 5 Months

For a Decision

YOU WIN

YOU ARE DENIED

Request for Reconsideration

This is a mandatory second review of your claim. You may be contacted by SSA to see their doctors or provide additional information.



1 to 3 Months

For a Decision

YOU WIN

YOU ARE DENIED

Appeal/Request for Hearing

We will have your case reviewed by an Administrative Law Judge. It is important to keep treating with your medical providers during this time, as it is evidence of your disability.



2 to 12 Months

After Appeal for Hearing to be Scheduled



Questions? Call us at (518) 556-3435

Notice of Award

This notice will outline your past-due benefits and your monthly payments going forward. You should hold onto any monies paid until we review your award letter to make sure it's correct. If the SSA overpays you, they will want to collect it back.



1 to 3 Months

After Decision is Made

Hearing is Scheduled

You will be notified by mail when your hearing has been scheduled. A meeting with your attorney will be set up to prepare for your hearing.



1 to 2 Months

Before Hearing to Prep with our Attorneys

Hearing

You will attend your hearing in front of an Administrative Law Judge with your attorney where your case will be presented.

Notice of Decision

You will either receive a Fully, Partially, or Unfavorable Decision.



2 to 4 Months

For a Written Decision After Your Hearing

YOU RECEIVE FULLY OR PARTIALLY FAVORABLE DECISION

UNFAVORABLE DECISION

Next Steps

Your attorney will contact you to advise what your next step should be – you can either appeal or you may be able to refile a new claim.

*Disclaimer: This schedule is to be used only as a general guide. The exact timing of the items on this list depends, upon many factors, including the number of claims pending, the complexity of your case, and the SSA's caseload.