

The Division of Disability Determination (DDD) Social Security Disability Claim Process

Applicant files claim at local Social Security Field Office.



Field office sends claim to OOD Division of Disability Determination (DDD) where it is assigned to an adjudicator.

Adjudicator analyzes application and relevant medical and employment records to determine whether disability criteria, as established by the Social Security Administration (SSA), are met. Adjudicator may receive advice from in-house medical, mental health consultants.

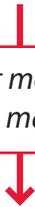


If additional medical/ mental health evidence is needed...

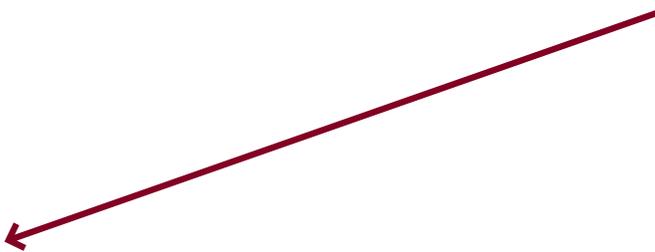


DDD schedules and sends applicant for consultative examination (CE). CE report is compiled by the independent consultant and returned to DDD.

If there is sufficient medical/ mental health evidence to make determination...



Adjudicator makes disability determination based on federal regulations. Adjudicator then notifies SSA of the decision.



SSA notifies individual of final decision.

Adjudicator:

DDD employee who reviews SSA disability application and may contact applicant for more information about disability.

Medical/ Mental Health Consultant:

Licensed doctor, contracted by DDD, who helps assess the applicant's physical or mental disability.

Consultative Examination (CE):

Exam that may be ordered and paid for by DDD to gather more information about the applicant's disability.