



VETERAN ALERT
DO YOU HAVE A VETERAN COMPENSATION RATING OF 100%
ARE YOU PLANNING TO APPLY FOR SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY?

The Social Security Administration (SSA) will expedite disability claims filed by veterans who have a U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs Compensation rating of 100% Permanent & Total (P&T).

What do you need to know?

The Veterans Administration and Social Security Administration pay disability benefits to qualifying individuals however, their programs, processing, and criteria for receiving benefits are different. A Veterans Administration compensation rating of 100% P&T does not guarantee that you will receive Social Security disability benefits but does ensure a faster decision. To receive disability benefits from Social Security, a person must have a severe impairment that is expected to last one year or result in death. The impairment must prevent the person from being able to perform substantial work. The veteran must also meet certain financial criteria.

If you receive Veterans Affairs compensation, this will not affect your Social Security benefits.

How can you be sure SSA will expedite your claim?

When you apply in person or over the phone:

- Identify yourself as a "Veteran rated 100% P&T"

If you apply online:

- Enter "Veteran 100% P&T" in the "Remarks" section of the application.

Provide Social Security with your Veterans Administration notification letter which verifies your rating. If you apply in person bring this form with you. If you apply by phone or online you will have to mail the form to your Social Security office. Make sure to make a copy. Mail using a certified return receipt so you have proof you sent it and be sure to put your social security number on your correspondence.

How will my claim be expedited?

Once Social Security identifies you as a veteran rated 100% P&T, they will treat your claim as a high priority and rush it through the application and the appeal process if that is necessary. If you live abroad your claim will still be expedited.

How to apply for Social Security Disability or Supplemental Security Income

There are three ways to apply for these benefits:

- Apply online at www.ssa.gov/applyfordisability. Be sure to save your PIN #.
- Call the toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may call the SSA tollfree TTY number 1-800-325-0778
- Visit your local Social Security office. To find your local office go to: <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>

How Long Does the Process Take?

The length of time it takes Social Security to make a disability decision depends on several factors including:

- The nature of your disability
- How quickly they obtain medical evidence from your doctors or other medical sources
- Whether it is necessary to send you for a medical examination

You can assist in the process by gathering the names, addresses and treatment dates of all doctors or other medical professionals treating you for the disability. Also, prepare a list of your medications and your work history. Keep in mind, if SSA denies you can appeal online at: <https://www.ssa.gov/apply/appeal-decision-we-made> or by calling using the numbers listed above.

For More Information

You can find more information at: <https://www.ssa.gov/people/veterans/#ht=1>