



Cancer Legal Care's Social Security Application Assistance Program

How We Can Help

The inability to work can impact a cancer patient's economic security. To help address this, Cancer Legal Care created the Social Security Application Assistance Program. The program reduces barriers to disabled cancer patients applying for Social Security benefits.

Cancer Legal Care provides advocacy and guidance from the start of the application process until our clients receive their first payment. Our services are free. Cancer Legal Care does not collect a fee from our client's benefits.

If you have questions about Social Security benefits or need help applying, contact Cancer Legal Care to see if you are eligible for this service. For help, call 651-917-9000 or email help@cancerlegalcare.org.



Social Security and Cancer 5-Month Waiting Period

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a waiting period for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits?

Yes. If Social Security finds you disabled, you will need to wait 5 full months from your disability onset date to get your first SSDI payment. Your onset date is the date that Social Security determines you became disabled based on their rules.

Does the 5-month waiting period apply to Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?

No. The 5-month waiting period does not apply to SSI benefits.

I am a terminal cancer patient. Does the 5-month wait period still apply to me?

Yes. The 5-month wait period still applies. There is no exception for terminal cancer.

My diagnosis is on the Compassionate Allowance list. Does the 5-month wait period still apply to me?

Yes. The 5-month wait period still applies. There is no exception if your diagnosis is on the Compassionate Allowance list.

I was diagnosed with cancer in January and stopped working on February 15th. If I apply for Social Security Disability Insurance after I stop working, when will my benefits start?

You will likely receive your first SSDI check in September.

The 5-month wait period applies to the first full 5 months that you are disabled. If Social Security finds you disabled starting the first day you could not work, February 16, the first month of the 5-month wait period will be March. You will not receive an SSDI payment for March, April, May, June, or July.

The first month you are eligible for payment will be August. SSDI payments are paid the month following the month the payment is due. SSDI benefits due in August are payable in September. In this situation, you will receive your first SSDI check in September.

I have more questions about Social Security benefits. Can Cancer Legal Care help me?

Yes. We are happy to answer your questions and help you understand Social Security's disability programs. Email us at help@cancerlegalcare.org or call 651-917-9000