

How Caregivers can Help Their Loved Ones Apply for Social Security Disability Benefits

Caregivers are essential for people with medical issues to help them with daily living tasks, but caregivers can also help the people they care for when it comes to filing for Social Security disability benefits and keeping their personal finances and records in good order. It's not unusual for someone that has a disability or a serious medical condition to have a caregiver help them fill out the application for [Social Security disability benefits](#) and to help them with other tasks. There are some things that caregivers should know when it comes to helping with a Social Security disability claim like:

Gathering Medical Records

The person that you are caring for will need to submit extensive [medical records](#) with the claim in order to bolster the claim and prove that the person meets the requirements set by the [Social Security Administration \(SSA\)](#) to receive benefits due to that condition. However, [HIPPA](#) and privacy laws prevent anyone but the person who has the condition from accessing that person's medical records. In order to help that person by getting copies of all their medical records to submit with claim you will need to have a signed authorization to access that person's medical records. You will probably need multiple copies that are official and have an official seal because you will need to give a copy to each hospital or from the [doctor's office](#) where that person has been treated. It's a good idea to get more copies than you think you will need so you have extras.

If the person that you're caring for is a family member or friend, you can also get a limited healthcare power of attorney document from that person that allows you to access their medical records. This does not give you any access to their financial records or finances, it just gives you legal authority to access their medical records and make medical decisions for them if they are unable to do that.

Filing The Claim

If the person that you are caring for has an illness or injury that makes it physically or mentally difficult for them to fill out the claim forms for Social Security disability benefits you are allowed to fill out the claim paperwork for them. It can be a great relief to someone that is sick to have someone they trust to help them fill out the paperwork. You can [file a claim for disability benefits](#) for that person online. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, SSA offices have suspended in person services.

If you, the caregiver are in need of assistance, you can contact your local SSA office or call the national toll hotline toll free at 1-800-772-1213. An SSA representative can help you go through the claim form and submit all the medical evidence that supports the claim. You are allowed to fill out the claim and sign it on behalf of the person you're caring for and it won't impact their ability to be approved for benefits. Getting help from the local SSA representative can make the filing process easier for you and the person you're caring for.

Resources Found Via:

- <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/>
- <https://www.disability-benefits-help.org/blog/obtain-medical-records-ssdi>
- <https://www.ssa.gov>
- <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/index.html>
- <https://www.disability-benefits-help.org/blog/role-doctor-plays-disability-application-process>
- <https://www.ssa.gov/applyfordisability/>