



Securing today  
and tomorrow

# A Special Examination Is Needed For Your Disability Claim

[SSA.gov](https://www.ssa.gov)



After you apply for Social Security Disability Insurance benefits or Supplemental Security Income payments, sometimes you need to have special medical examinations or tests before we can decide whether you qualify.

The Disability Determination Services (DDS) in your state reviews your disability claim and makes the disability decisions for us. Sometimes, the employees there need more information before they can decide if you're disabled under Social Security law. So, they ask you to have a special exam or medical test that we'll pay for. We'll also pay for certain related travel expenses.

If a doctor who is not your regular doctor performs your exam or test, we can send a copy of the results to your doctor if you ask us.

## What should I do?

It's your responsibility to take the exam or test and cooperate with the doctor examining you. If you can't keep the appointment we made for you, let the state agency know right away. The contact phone number and address are provided with the letter you receive notifying you about the exam or test. If you don't let the state agency know that you can't keep the appointment, DDS will make a decision based solely on the information already available in your case. This may result in a decision that you're not disabled.

## What will the doctor do?

The doctor (or other medical person) who sees you will only conduct the exam or test and get specific information requested by the state agency. The doctor will not take part in deciding whether you're disabled and he or she will not prescribe treatment or medication for you. The doctor will send a report of the exam or test to the state agency.

## What will the state agency do?

The state agency will review the doctor's report along with all of the other information in your case and make a disability decision. We'll send you a letter to tell you about the decision the state agency made on your case.

## What if I do not agree with the decision?

If you don't agree with the decision, you have the right to appeal. Your letter will tell you how to appeal the decision.

## Things to remember

- Confirm that you will attend the appointment. The exam or test requested is intended to provide additional information needed to help the state agency make a decision in your case.
- If you can't keep the appointment, you must let the state agency know right away. If you don't, the state agency may decide that you're not disabled.

## Contacting Social Security

The most convenient way to do business with us from anywhere, on any device, is to visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov). There are several things you can do online: apply for benefits; get useful information; find publications; and get answers to frequently asked questions.

When you open a personal *my* Social Security account, you have more capabilities. You can review your *Social Security Statement*, verify your earnings, and get estimates of future benefits. You can also print a benefit verification letter, change your direct deposit information, request a replacement Medicare card, get a replacement SSA-1099/1042S, and request a replacement Social Security card (if you have no changes and your state participates).

If you don't have access to the internet, we offer many automated services by telephone, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213** or at our TTY number, **1-800-325-0778**, if you're deaf or hard of hearing.

A member of our staff can answer your call from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. We ask for your patience during busy periods since you may experience a high rate of busy signals and longer hold times to speak to us. We look forward to serving you.

**Social Security Administration**

Publication No. 05-10087

March 2021 (Recycle prior editions)

A Special Examination Is Needed For Your Disability Claim  
Produced and published at U.S. taxpayer expense