



Caregiver's CORNER

HDSA welcomes you to
Caregiver's Corner

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SSDI Strategies II

Presented by:

- Drew Yeannakis

Drew Yeannakis Disability Claims Representatives

P O Box 1781

Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

Office: (434)-296-7400

Toll Free: (877)-374-7400

Fax: (434)-973-3023

E-mail:

drew@disabilityclaimsreps.com

Web:

www.disabilityclaimsreps.com

IMPORTANT NOTE

You are not required to purchase or provide your medical records at the time of application.

Things you will need to have ready

- Complete names addresses and phone numbers for all your employers, doctors, hospitals, next of kin, etc.
- Dates of employment and job descriptions
 - [Download SSA Adult Medical & Job Worksheet](#)
- Dates of Medical Services (i.e. tests, surgeries, hospitalizations, etc. Include your entire medical history (physical and cognitive)
- Have a complete list of all medications you are taking and a description of side effects you may be experiencing. Even a headache or nausea is important to list!

Your Application

- If you apply on-line, NOTE: there are two applications you must complete on line. If eligible, you *CAN NOT apply for SSI (Supplemental Security Income) on line*. You can either apply for SSI at Social Security or with your Representative.
 - [SSA Disability Starter Kit](#)
 - [SSA Video: Applying online](#)
- Explain in detail how your condition affects YOUR life and limits YOUR ability to function. The more details and examples you offer the interviewer the better!
- Your Disability application is taken by the Social Security Administration; however, your Disability Determination is handled at a state agency.

Your Application: Continued

- You must provide Social Security a signed Authorization to Release Medical Information form ([#SSA-827](#)) before your application will be sent to Disability Determination.
- Take your time in explaining your condition.
- Make sure you read and review every document you receive from Social Security and return the needed documentation immediately.
- REMEMBER: The process can take up to 5 or 6 months AFTER the application is sent to Disability Determination.

QUESTIONNAIRES

The questionnaire is your way to communicate your limitations and problems to the examiner at Disability Determination. Take your time in filling them out!

HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR COMPLETING THEM!

- ✓ HAVE A CARE GIVER, REPRESENTATIVE/LAWYER OR SOMEONE WHO KNOWS YOU WELL REVIEW YOUR ANSWERS WITH YOU!
- ✓ THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT HOW YOU ANSWER EACH QUESTION AND CONSIDER ALL YOUR LIMITATIONS.
- ✓ BE CONSISTENT WITH YOUR ANSWERS.

ADULT FUNCTION REPORT

- <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/online/ssa-3373.pdf>
- Adult Function Report Third Party Form:
<http://www.ssa.gov/online/ssa-3380.pdf>

OTHER REPORTS THAT CAN BE COMPLETED

- There are many other reports and documentation that can assist you with your claim.
- For further information please feel free to contact me or your appointed representative.

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E-mail:

drew@disabilityclaimsreps.com