

Reconsideration Appeal (SSA Form 561)

What is this form used for and why would I use it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use this form <u>if you disagree with the suspension letter</u> you received from the Social Security Administration (“SSA”) that stated your disability benefits were suspended because you were over the resource limit of \$2,000 per individual or \$3,000 per couple.
Who decides the appeal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An SSA employee who was <u>not involved</u> in the original suspension.
How do you ask for an appeal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Step 1: File an appeal within the required deadlines.</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ You have <u>60 days to file the appeal</u> from when you get the notice. While your appeal is being considered, <u>you do not need to pay the overpayment.</u>○ If you file the appeal within <u>10 days</u> after getting the notice, you do not have to pay the overpayment and <u>your benefits are reinstated</u> until a decision is made.○ If you miss these deadlines, you may want to consult a lawyer.• <u>Step 2: Fill out the Request for Reconsideration (SSA Form 561).</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ File this request with the attached form OR○ Use this link- https://www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-561.html.• <u>Step 3: Pick an appeal setting, which includes the following:</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <u>Case Review:</u> You give the SSA documents, such as bank records. You do not meet the employee that decides your case. The SSA decides the case based upon the paperwork you give.○ <u>Informal Conference:</u> You meet the employee who will decide the case and you tell the employee why you deserve your disability benefits. You present evidence to prove your case.○ <u>Formal Conference:</u> You meet the employee who will decide your case. You present evidence such as witnesses. The SSA can subpoena witnesses and cross examining is allowed.
What happens after your appeal is filed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You need to <u>keep checking with the Social Security Office</u> for an update. Social Security may ask for additional documentation.
What if you lose the appeal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You can <u>appeal again</u> by requesting a hearing with an administrative law judge.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

NAME OF CLAIMANT:	CLAIMANT SSN:	CLAIM NUMBER: <i>(If different than SSN)</i>
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ISSUE BEING APPEALED: *(Specify if retirement, disability, hospital or medical, SSI, SVB, overpayment, etc.)*

I do not agree with the Social Security Administration's (SSA) determination and request reconsideration.
 My reasons are:

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI) OR SPECIAL VETERANS BENEFITS (SVB)
 RECONSIDERATION ONLY
 THREE WAYS TO APPEAL**

I want to appeal your determination about my claim for **SSI** or **SVB**. I have read about the three ways to appeal. I have checked the box below:

- CASE REVIEW** - You can pick this kind of appeal in all cases. You can give us more facts to add to your file. Then we will decide your case again. You do not meet with the person who decides your case.
- INFORMAL CONFERENCE** - You can pick this kind of appeal in all **SSI** cases except for medical issues. In **SVB** cases, you can pick this kind of appeal only if we are stopping or lowering your **SVB** payment. You will meet with a person who will decide your case. You can tell that person why you think you are right. You can give us more facts to help prove you are right. You can bring other people to help explain your case.
- FORMAL CONFERENCE** - You can pick this kind of appeal only if we are stopping or lowering your **SSI** or **SVB** payment. This meeting is like an informal conference, but we can also get people to come in and help prove you are right. We can do this even if they do not want to help you. You can question these people at your meeting.

CONTACT INFORMATION

CLAIMANT SIGNATURE - <i>OPTIONAL</i> :		NAME OF CLAIMANT'S REPRESENTATIVE: <i>(If any)</i>	
MAILING ADDRESS:		MAILING ADDRESS:	
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP CODE:	CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE:
TELEPHONE NUMBER: <i>(Include area code)</i>	DATE:	TELEPHONE NUMBER: <i>(Include area code)</i>	DATE:

TO BE COMPLETED BY SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

1. HAS INITIAL DETERMINATION BEEN MADE? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 2. IS THIS REQUEST FILED TIMELY? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>(If "NO", attach claimant's explanation for delay. Refer to GN 03101.020)</i>	FIELD OFFICE DEVELOPMENT (GN 03102.300) <input type="checkbox"/> NO FURTHER DEVELOPMENT REQUIRED <input type="checkbox"/> REQUIRED DEVELOPMENT ATTACHED <input type="checkbox"/> REQUIRED DEVELOPMENT PENDING, WILL FORWARD OR ADVISE STATUS WITHIN 30 DAYS
SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE ADDRESS AND DATE APPEAL RECEIVED:	SSI CASES ONLY - GOLDBERG KELLY (GK) (SI 02301.310) RECIPIENT APPEALED AN ADVERSE ACTION: <input type="checkbox"/> WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE ADVANCE NOTICE; <input type="checkbox"/> AFTER THE 10-DAY PERIOD AND GOOD CAUSE EXISTS FOR EXTENDING THE TIME LIMIT <input type="checkbox"/> PAYMENT CONTINUATION APPLIES AND INPUT MADE TO SYSTEM

NOTE: Take or mail the **completed original** to your local Social Security office, the Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Manila, or any U.S. Foreign Service post and keep a copy for your records.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS THAT ARE INITIAL DETERMINATIONS (See GN03101.070, GN03101.080, and SI04010.010)

NOTE: These lists cover the vast majority of administrative actions that are initial determinations. However, they are not all inclusive.

Title II

1. Entitlement or continuing entitlement to benefits;
2. Reentitlement to benefits;
3. The amount of benefit;
4. A recomputation of benefit;
5. A reduction in disability benefits because benefits under a worker's compensation law were also received;
6. A deduction from benefits on account of work;
7. A deduction from disability benefits because of claimant's refusal to accept rehabilitation services;
8. Termination of benefits;
9. Penalty deductions imposed because of failure to report certain events;
10. Any overpayment or underpayment of benefits;
11. Whether an overpayment of benefits must be repaid;
12. How an underpayment of benefits due a deceased person will be paid;
13. The establishment or termination of a period of disability;
14. A revision of an earnings record;
15. Whether the payment of benefits will be made, on the claimant's behalf to a representative payee, unless the claimant is under age 18 or legally incompetent;
16. Who will act as the payee if we determine that representative payment will be made;
17. An offset of benefits because the claimant previously received Supplemental Security Income payments for the same period;
18. Whether completion of or continuation for a specified period of time in an appropriate vocational rehabilitation program will significantly increase the likelihood that the claimant will not have to return to the disability benefit rolls and thus, whether the claimant's benefits may be continued even though the claimant is not disabled;
19. Nonpayment of benefits because of claimant's confinement for more than 30 continuous days in a jail, prison, or other correctional institution for conviction of a criminal offense;
20. Nonpayment of benefits because of claimant's confinement for more than 30 continuous days in a mental health institution or other medical facility because a court found the individual was not guilty for reason of insanity; a court found that he/she was incompetent to stand trial or was unable to stand trial for some other similar mental defect; or, a court found that he/she was sexually dangerous.

Title XVI

1. Eligibility for, or the amount of, Supplemental Security Income benefits;
2. Suspension, reduction, or termination of Supplemental Security Income benefits;
3. Whether an overpayment of benefits must be repaid;
4. Whether payments will be made, on claimant's behalf to a representative payee, unless the claimant is under age 18, legally incompetent, or determined to be a drug addict or alcoholic;
5. Who will act as payee if we determine that representative payment will be made;
6. Imposing penalties for failing to report important information;
7. Drug addiction or alcoholism;
8. Whether claimant is eligible for special SSI cash benefits;
9. Whether claimant is eligible for special SSI eligibility status;
10. Claimant's disability; and
11. Whether completion of or continuation for a specified period of time in an appropriate vocational rehabilitation program will significantly increase the likelihood that claimant will not have to return to the disability benefit rolls and thus, whether claimant's benefits may be continued even though he or she is not disabled.

NOTE: Every redetermination which gives an individual the right of further review constitutes an initial determination.

Title VIII (See VB 02501.035)

1. Meeting or failing to meet the qualifying and/or entitlement factors for special veterans benefits (SVB);
2. Reduction, suspension or termination of SVB payments;
3. Applicability of a disqualifying event prior to SVB entitlement;
4. Administrative actions in SVB cases similar to those listed under Title II-items 3, 4, 10, 11 & 16.

Title XVIII

1. Entitlement to hospital insurance benefits and to enrollment for supplementary medical insurance benefits;
2. Disallowance (including denial of application for HIB and denial of application for enrollment for SMIB);
3. Termination of benefits (including termination of entitlement to HI and SMI).
4. Initial determinations regarding Medicare Part B income-related premium subsidy reductions.

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Claimant

HOW TO APPEAL YOUR SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI) OR SPECIAL VETERANS BENEFIT (SVB) DECISION

Now that you picked the kind of appeal that fits your case, fill out this form or we'll help you fill it out. You can have a lawyer, friend, or someone else help you with your appeal. There are groups that can help you with your appeal. Some can give you a free lawyer. We can give you the names of these groups.

NOTE: DON'T FILL OUT THIS FORM IF WE SAID WE'LL STOP YOUR DISABILITY CHECK FOR MEDICAL REASONS OR BECAUSE YOU'RE NO LONGER BLIND. WE'LL GIVE YOU THE RIGHT FORM (SSA-789-U4) FOR YOUR APPEAL.

The information on this form is authorized by regulation (20 CFR 404.907 - 404.921 and 416.1407 - 416.1421) and Public Law 106-169 (section 809(a)(1) of section 251(a)). While your response to these questions is voluntary, the Social Security Administration cannot reconsider the decision on this claim unless the information is furnished.

Privacy Act Statement Request for Reconsideration

Sections 205, 702(a)(5), 809, 1631, 1633, and 1869(b) of the Social Security Act, as amended, allow us to collect this information. Furnishing us this information is voluntary. However, failing to provide all or part of the information may prevent us from re-evaluating the decision on your claim.

We will use the information to determine your eligibility for benefits and administer our programs. We may also share your information for the following purposes, called routine uses:

- To third party contacts in situations where the party to be contacted has, or is expected to have, information relating to the individual's capability to manage his/her affairs or his/her eligibility for or entitlement to benefits under the Social Security program; and
- To the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), for the purpose of administering Medicare Part A, Part B, Medicare Advantage Part C, and Medicare Part D, including but not limited to: Medicare Part C enrollment and premium collection processes; Part D enrollment and premium collection processes; Medicare Part B premium reduction based on participation in a Part C plan; and Medicare Part B enrollment and income-related monthly adjustment amount determinations, appeals of determinations, and premium collections.

In addition, we may share this information in accordance with the Privacy Act and other Federal laws. For example, where authorized, we may use and disclose this information in computer matching programs, in which our records are compared with other records to establish or verify a person's eligibility for Federal benefit programs and for repayment of incorrect or delinquent debts under these programs.

A list of additional routine uses is available in our Privacy Act System of Records Notices (SORN) 60-0089, entitled Claims Folder System, as published in the Federal Register (FR) on April 1, 2003, at 68 FR 15784 and 60-0321, entitled Medicare Database File, as published in the FR on July 25, 2006, at 71 FR 42159. Additional information, and a full listing of all of our SORNs, is available on our website at www.ssa.gov/privacy/.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement - This information collection meets the requirements of 44 U.S.C. § 3507, as amended by section 2 of the [Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995](#). You do not need to answer these questions unless we display a valid Office of Management and Budget control number. We estimate that it will take about 8 minutes to read the instructions, gather the facts, and answer the questions. **SEND OR BRING THE COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR LOCAL SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE. You can find your local Social Security office through SSA's website at www.socialsecurity.gov. Offices are also listed under U. S. Government agencies in your telephone directory or you may call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).** *You may send comments on our time estimate above to: SSA, 6401 Security Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21235-6401. Send only comments relating to our time estimate to this address, not the completed form.*