

Social Security Disability: The Patience Game



1. Initial Review

2-5 months
2,200,000 cases/yr

35% allowed, collect benefits

65% denied

APPEAL

2. Reconsideration

2-5 months
530,000 cases/yr

13% allowed, collect benefits

87% denied

APPEAL

3. Administrative Law Judge

18 months
560,000 cases/yr

45% allowed, collect benefits

21% dismissed STOP

35% denied

APPEAL

4. Appeals Council

6-12 months
106,000 cases/yr

1% allowed, collect benefits

10% remanded to a lower court. Go back one level.

85% denied

4% dismissed STOP

APPEAL

5. Federal Court

1-2 years
18,000 cases/yr

48% remanded to a lower court. Go back one level.

42% denied STOP

2% allowed, collect benefits

8% dismissed STOP

