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Social Security Administration Fine-Tunes Eligibility for Individuals with Diabetes

Earlier this year, the Social Security Administration (SSA) issued updated regulations that clarify Social Security Disability (SSDI) benefit eligibility for those with diabetes.

By itself, a diagnosis of diabetes is not enough to qualify for SSDI benefits. An applicant with this disease must demonstrate that complications from diabetes make mobility and self-care, and working at a job, either difficult or impossible.





SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BLOG

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The SSA Five-Step Process

The updated eligibility process asks these questions:

- Are you working? If the answer is “Yes” and you are earning more than \$1,010 per month, your application will probably be denied.
- Does your diabetes substantially limit your ability to perform work activities that are necessary in most jobs? Examples include sitting, walking, lifting or carrying, or following directions. Is your hearing, sight or speech affected? Your application will be denied if the answer to all these questions is “No.”
- Is your disease severe enough to be classified under another SSDI’s body system listing, for example the cardiovascular system? If “No” the application will likely be denied.
- Are you able to do work that you have done in the past even with your diabetes–related limitations? Your application will be denied if you answer “Yes.”
- Is there any work for pay that you can do, considering your education, age, training, past work experience and physical or mental limitations? If “Yes” your application will be denied.

SSDI eligibility for individuals with diabetes is

complex: contact [our firm](#) at **800-438-7734** today for a free review of your case.

Enjoy Holiday Decorations Safely

Decorating your home is a big part of celebrating the holidays. Unfortunately, home structure fires can occur if you aren't vigilant about fire safety.

The [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA) reports that, on average, U.S. fire departments handle an average of 230 home fires each year started by Christmas trees. Follow these fire safety tips:



- Choose a fresh tree with pliable needles that bend. Cut two inches from the bottom and put it in water immediately.
- Look for artificial trees that are labeled or certified as fire retardant.
- Place trees at least three feet away from heat sources and open flames.
- Turn tree lights and other electric decorations off before retiring for the night and before leaving the house.
- Purchase only lights displaying labels from testing laboratories. Examine lights each year and discard those with frayed wires. Don't exceed the manufacturer's limit for stringing lights together.
- Take down a fresh tree when needles begin to drop and dispose of it safely, or recycle it.

Candles make a home look festive but should always be placed in glass, metal or pottery holders. Keep these well away from the reach of children and

from flammable substances.

Now is the perfect time to review basic fire safety rules with your family. Create an emergency escape plan if you don't already have one and practice with each family member. The NFPA has a child-friendly [Home Fire Escape Plan](#) that can help you develop your own plan.

If you or a loved one has been denied Worker's Compensation or Social Security Disability (SSDI) benefits, it's important to get an attorney experienced in these types of cases involved immediately. Call **800-438-7734** for your initial free consultation, either in our office or in the comfort of your own home. The Kenton Koszdin Law Office, [Social Security attorney in Van Nuys](#), can help you navigate the application process for the best possible outcome for you and your family.

Recipe of the Month: Holiday Spiced Nuts



Here's a great recipe from Rachael Ray for holiday entertaining or gift giving.

Ingredients

- 2 cups walnut halves
- 1 cup peeled hazelnuts
- 1 cup whole unsalted cashews

- 1 cup whole pecan halves
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 teaspoon ground anise
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon coarse black pepper
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice, fresh
- ½ teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg, eyeball it
- 1 cup smoked almonds (recommended: Diamond Smokehouse almonds)

Directions:

Heat a large skillet and cook nuts over moderate heat 7 to 8 minutes until golden and well toasted – your nose will know when they are done.

Transfer nuts to a plate and return pan to stove top. Add butter to the pan in small pieces. Melt butter and spice it with anise, cinnamon, pepper and nutmeg. Let butter infuse a minute then pour over nuts. Turn off heat.

Add smoked nuts to the skillet and turn to combine evenly with butter.

What's Happening in Southern California in January 2015

Jan. 1, 2015

126th Rose Parade
Down Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena

Jan. 1 – 4, 8 & 11, 2015

The Queen Mary's Chill: New Year's
Day

Jan. 11, 2015

Winter Fun 5k, 10k, 15k, Half
Marathon
Beach path in the cul de sac, Ocean
Ave, Santa Monica

Jan. 15 – 25, 2015

1126 Queens Highway, Long Beach

Jan. 1 – 11, 2015

Kinky Boots Broadway musical
Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Costa
Mesa

Jan. 1 – 19, 2015

Ice at Santa Monica
1324 5th Street, Santa Monica

Jan 2, 2015

Wicked
Pantages Theatre, Los Angeles

Jan. 2, 2015

Opening Night: The Improvised Musical
10 West Theater, Hollywood

Jan. 6 – 11, 2015

Dirty Dancing
Civic Theatre, San Diego

Jan. 8, 2015

Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk
Sixth & Spring St., Los Angeles

Jan. 10, 2015

2nd Saturday Art Walk
Linden Ave. & E. Broadway, Long
Beach

2nd Annual San Diego Comedy
Festival

The Comedy Palace, San Diego

Jan. 17, 2015

San Diego Beer Fest
Liberty Station, Cushing Rd. San
Diego

Jan. 18, 2015

“Happy Birthday Amadeus”:
Orchestra Santa Monica
Moss Theater, Santa Monica

Jan. 23, 2015

Golden Dragon Acrobats “Cirque
Ziva”
Saban Theatre, Beverly Hills

Jan. 24, 2015

Terry Bradshaw show
Carpenter Performing Arts Center,
Long Beach

Jan. 25, 2015

Leimert Park Art Walk
Leimert Park, Los Angeles



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