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## How Long Do SSDI Benefits Last, and Can They Be Suspended?



If you or a loved one is receiving [Social Security Disability Benefits \(SSDI\)](#), your payments will continue as long as you are unable to work and your medical condition has not improved.

**Periodic Disability Review**

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

### WORKERS' COMPENSATION BLOG

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The Social Security Administration (SSA) periodically [reviews](#) each case. If your condition has improved so that you are no longer disabled, SSDI benefits will cease.

The review period varies and is based on your health outlook based on your condition:

- If improvement is **expected**, the first review will be 6 to 18 months after SSDI benefits begin.
- Where improvement is **possible**, the first review will be at least 3 years after you become disabled.
- If improvement is **not expected**, a review will not occur before 7 years after your disability date.

When you attain [full Social Security retirement age](#), disability benefits convert to Social Security retirement benefits, and there are no more disability reviews.

### Returning to Work and Overpayments

Continuing eligibility for SSDI benefits if you return to work depends on your earnings amount. If you are able to work at a “substantial level,” defined in 2014 as earnings of \$1,070 or more per month, your SSDI payments will be suspended.

However, the SSA allows you to work on a trial basis and still collect full SSDI benefits, as long as you report your work activity to the SSA and remain disabled. You can find complete program details in the SSA brochure “[Working While Disabled – How](#)

### [We Can Help.](#)”

Sometimes trial work payments result in an overpayment to the worker, which the SSA will demand back. You are entitled to [appeal](#) against the overpayment to prevent burdensome repayments.

### **Living Out of the U.S.**

If you relocate to certain countries, your SSDI benefits may be suspended. These circumstances are very limited, and you can find a list at the Social Security Administration (SSA) [webpage](#) on this topic.

You have the right to [appeal](#) an SSA decision to suspend or reduce your disability benefits. Call us today at **800-438-7734** for a free review of your disability case.

## **Celebrate Canines that Live to Serve**

September is [National Service Dog Month](#), formerly known as National Guide Dog Month. The celebration’s new name recognizes the expanded service roles that these amazing animals offer. Not only for the visually impaired, service dogs assist those with hearing impairments, seizures, mental illness, diabetes, autism and more.



Service dogs are more than pets – they are partners. They are trained like police dogs are trained and are taught specifically how to help and guide their masters. Training begins as a puppy, where the dog learns socialization, obedience and manners.

At one year of age, the dogs work with a professional trainer to learn how to serve people with specific needs. For example:

- a dog that will be placed with a visually impaired person will learn how to guide him across the street
- a service dog that will serve a hearing impaired owner will be taught to alert his master if the doorbell rings.

Finally, the dog and its owner spend at least four weeks training together.

Service dogs are trained to respond to their owners' commands. They know how to deal with traffic, always walk in a straight line unless avoiding obstacles, and even can judge height and width so their owners don't bump their heads.

Not all dogs are suitable for service work, and the selection criteria is strict in order to ensure the safety of their owners. Service dogs are intelligent, alert and always willing to serve. A trained service dog can be a trustworthy ally and a valuable aide.

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If you or a loved one has been denied 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 Disability attorney in Van Nuys](#), can help you navigate the [SSDI application process](#) for the best possible outcome for you

and your family.

## Recipe of the Month: Mustard Roasted Salmon



### Ingredients

- 1 ¼ pound wild salmon, skin removed, cut into 4 pieces
- 2 tablespoons whole grain mustard
- 2 tablespoons 100% pure maple syrup
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- Juice of ½ a lemon

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 400–degrees F. Place salmon pieces on a sheet pan lined with parchment paper. Season with salt and pepper; roast for 10 minutes. In a small bowl, combine mustard, maple syrup, garlic and lemon juice. After the 10 minutes of cooking, brush salmon with mixture and return to the oven for 5 minutes or until salmon is just cooked through.

*Recipe courtesy of [FoodNetwork.com](http://FoodNetwork.com)*

**What's Happening in Southern California**

**Oct. 1 – 19, 2014**

Jersey Boys  
Pantages Theatre Hollywood

**Oct. 1 – 25, 2014**

Big Bear Lake Oktoberfest  
Convention Center, Big Bear Lake

**Oct. 1 – 31, 2014**

The Trip to Bountiful  
Ahmanson Theatre, Los Angeles

**Oct. 2–4, 9–12,16–19,23–26 &29, 2014**

Queen Mary Dark Harbor Halloween Event  
Long Beach

**Oct. 2 – 5, 2014**

Orange County Auto Show  
Anaheim Convention Center, Orange County

**Oct. 3 – 5, 2014**

The MCAS Miramar Air Show  
The Marine Corp Air Station, San Diego

**Oct. 3 – 5, 2014**

The California Avocado Festival  
Carpinteria, Santa Barbara County

**Oct. 4, 2014**

Vegan Oktoberfest  
2600 Barnard Way, Santa Monica

**Oct. 4 – 12, 2014**

Southern California Fair  
Lake Perris Fairgrounds

**Oct. 6 – 7, 2014**

Lorde concert  
Greek Theatre, Los Angeles

**Oct. 11, 2014**

Bike MS Coastal Challenge  
Civic Auditorium, Santa Monica

**Oct. 11, 2014**

20th Annual Little Italy Festa  
Little Italy, San Diego

**Oct. 11, 2014**

Unwined with LA's Best  
Hangar 8, 3000 31st Street, Los Angeles

**Oct. 18, 2014**

Wellbeing Festival  
Civic Auditorium, Santa Monica

**Oct. 21 – 31, 2014**

Pippin  
Pantages Theatre Hollywood,  
Los Angeles



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