



## Termination Notice from the Social Security Administration

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What do I do if I receive a Termination Notice from SSA?**

A: If you receive a Notice of Termination, you should file a Request for Reconsideration to appeal the termination immediately. Also, you should ask for continuing benefits while you are waiting for SSI to make a decision.

**Q: What are the most common reasons for Terminations?**

A: There are multiple reasons for your SSI benefits to be terminated:

- You left the country.
- You had a change in your income or household.
- You have excess resources that are over \$2000 for an individual or \$3000 for a couple.
- SSA found that you are no longer disabled.

**Q: What type of income, resources, or household changes can impact my SSI benefit?**

A: The following things can impact your SSI benefit:

- Life insurance with cash surrender value.
- Wages that were not properly put into the SSA's system.
- Assistance from family or friends to pay for rent, food, or utilities.
- Property that you own (in the US or another country) but do not live in.
- Joint bank accounts with other people.
- Transfer of resources to family members.
- Incorrectly worded trusts.
- Failure to exclude exempt income and/or resources.
- Unreported foreign pensions.
- Unreported marriages or deaths.

**Q: Should I request a Reconsideration and how long do I have?**

A: If you believe that the Notice of Termination is incorrect and you want your benefits to continue, then you must file the Request for Reconsideration within 60 days of the date on the termination notice, plus 5 days for mailing. Continuation of benefits should be granted if you file the reconsideration within 65 days. See EM-21064 for more information: <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps10/reference.nsf/links/10292021100254AM>.

You can still file the reconsideration after 65 days from the date on the notice, but you will need to show good cause for late filing.

The reconsideration should be filed at your local Social Security office (in person or by mail or by fax) or online. Make sure you keep a copy of anything that you submit and get a receipt at the office, or keep proof of mailing, faxing, or of online submission.

**Q: Should I request a Conference with SSA?**

A: Yes. Personal conferences with SSA staff can be helpful. You will have the opportunity to review SSA's records and you can prove to SSA that the agency was wrong in its decision to terminate your benefits.

When you file an SSA reconsideration, you'll have a choice of three options for a conference: (1) a file review, (2) an informal conference, or (3) a formal conference. You should request a formal conference on the reconsideration form.

**Q: What if my Reconsideration is denied?**

A: If your Reconsideration is denied, you can request a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge within 65 days of the date on the denial notice. The Request should be filed with your local Social Security office, whether in person, by mail, by fax, or online.

A few things to keep in mind: make sure that your request is put in the SSA system. Also, make sure you keep a copy and (1) get a receipt at the office or (2) keep proof of your submission. Also, SSA can stop your benefits or start recouping from your benefits while you are waiting for the hearing to be scheduled.

- Online Reconsideration and Hearing Requests can be filed here:  
<https://secure.ssa.gov/iApp/NMD/start>.
- Local SSA Office Fax numbers and addresses can be found here:  
<https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>.

**Q: How do I get legal help?**

A: If you live in New York City, call Legal Services of NYC at 917-661-4500 or the New York Legal Assistance Group at 212-613-5000. If you live outside of New York City, contact your nearest Legal Services Corporation provider. Visit [lsc.gov](http://lsc.gov) or [lawhelp.org](http://lawhelp.org) to find a provider near you.

**For more information, visit us at [www.legalservicesnyc.org](http://www.legalservicesnyc.org) or [www.nylag.org](http://www.nylag.org).**