

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY PRACTICE

By

CHARLES T. HALL
Of the North Carolina Bar

Updated since 2023 by

CRYSTAL G. ROUSE
Of the North Carolina Bar

2025 EDITION



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AUTHOR'S INTRODUCTION 2025 Edition

Social Security Disability Practice is a practical work which aims to provide attorneys and others with the gritty details on representing disability claimants. The statutes and regulations are only the most basic framework. This book is where to find information about Rulings and manuals, as well as the unwritten policies and practices, that are important in the practice of Social Security disability law.

This year's edition includes updates to the in-kind support and maintenance guidelines for Supplemental Security Income. It discusses the agency's major revision of vocational standards, including its use of the Standard Occupational Classification system. There is discussion of new guidelines for musculoskeletal disorder listings. And what many practitioners have been waiting on: SSA's new policy, allowing for direct payment to law firms.

What's New in the 2025 Edition:

- § 1:2 Updated processing times
- § 1:3 Updated SSI in kind support and maintenance criteria
- § 1:4 Minor revision
- § 1:7 Updated past relevant work, SSR 24-2p
- § 1:11 Minor revision
- § 1:13 Minor update; Minor revision
- § 1:14 Updated SSI deeming criteria for child cases
- § 1:15 Minor revision
- § 1:16 Social Security Fairness Act
- § 1:19 Minor update; Minor revision
- §§ 1:24, 6:92, 6:94 Updated rules for claimant representation and direct payment to entities
- § 1:34 Updated past relevant work, SSR 24-2p
- § 1:41 SSA-1696 requirement to list auxiliary claimants; Minor revision
- § 1:46 Updated form
- § 1:47 Updated form
- § 1:48 Updated form
- § 1:54 Updated form
- § 1:55 Updated form
- § 1:57 Updated form
- § 1:58 Updated forms
- § 2:1 ERE spreadsheet of claims pending at initial and reconsideration levels
- § 2:3 Fraud investigations
- § 2:5 Minor revision
- § 2:14 Social Security Ruling 24-1p
- § 2:25 Updated SGA amounts and earning amount that would trigger trial work period
- § 2:38 Updated address for Coast Guard military medical records
- § 2:53 Minor revision
- § 2:59 Minor revision
- § 2:62 Updated form
- § 2:63 Updated form
- § 3:2 Videoteleconference, audio and online video hearings
- §§ 3:5, 3:30, 3:31 Major update: Social Security Ruling 24-3p; the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system

- § 3:6 Example of good cause for claimant failure to appear
- § 3:15 Social Security Ruling 24-2p; Past Relevant Work
- § 3:21 Minor update; Payroll data providers
- § 3:33 Acceptable sources of occupational information
- § 3:39 Update of SGA-level earnings
- § 3:41 Minor revision
- § 3:42 Minor revision
- § 3:45 Timely response: SSA documents mailed manually versus SSA documents mailed by central print
- § 3:37 Minor revision
- § 3:48 Minor update
- § 3:49 Minor update
- § 4:8 Minor revision
- § 4:28 Updated form
- § 5:6 Major update SSI in-kind support and maintenance
- § 5:11 Minor update
- § 5:15 Minor revision
- § 5:20 SSI overpayment administrative waiver; Title II overpayment default withholding rate
- § 5:25 Updated form
- § 5:26 Updated form
- § 6:2 Updated attorney fee cap
- § 6:3 Updated user fee
- § 6:7 Minor revision
- § 6:18 Minor update
- §§ 6:28, 6:31, 6:41, 6:61 Updated ALJ maximum authorization amount to approve fee petition
- § 6:34 Minor revision
- §§ 6:43, 6:44, 6:56, 6:57, 6:59, 6:60, 6:67, 6:69 Updated fee cap
- § 6:94 Major revision
- § 6:95 Minor revision
- § 6:99 Updated form
- §§ 7:2 to 7:11, 7:64 Major update; Musculoskeletal listing “close proximity of time” standard extended; WSMD criteria modified; upper extremity “initiate, sustain and complete activities” modified; Minor revisions
- §§ 7:22 to 7:26 Minor revision
- § 7:68 Minor revision; Minor update
- § 8:8 Updated form
- Appendix C – Minor revision
- Appendix D – Updated fax numbers
- Appendix E – Minor revision
- Appendix N – Updated with excerpt from Social Security Rule 24-3p

Crystal G. Rouse
August 2025

The Authors

Charles T. Hall has more than 40 years of private practice experience handling disability claims before the Social Security Administration and the federal courts. He received his B.A. from Duke University, and his J.D. from the University of North Carolina. He is a former President of the National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives (NOSSCR). Prior to private practice, Mr. Hall was a staff attorney with the Social Security Administration.

Crystal G. Rouse has practiced Social Security disability law since 2010. In 2019, she became partner at Charles T. Hall Law Firm and they continue to practice together as Hall and Rouse. Ms. Rouse received her B.A. from Barton College and her J.D. from North Carolina Central University evening program. She is a former president of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice Disability Advocacy Section. Prior to law school, Ms. Rouse worked for eight years with the Social Security Administration's Disability Determination Services. She is a board certified specialist in Social Security Disability Law.



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