

**Supporting Statement for
Waiver of Right to Appear – Disability Hearing
Form SSA-773-U4**

OMB No. 0960-0534

A. Justification

1. Introduction/Authoring Laws and Regulations

Section 205(b) of the *Social Security Act (Act)* and sections 20 CFR 404.913-.914 and 20 CFR 416.1413-.1414 of the *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)* allow for an evidentiary hearing at the reconsideration level of appeal for claimants who received an initial or revised determination that a disability did not exist or has ceased. 20 CFR 404.916(b)(5) and 20 CFR 416.1416(b)(5) of the CFR informs claimants on the effects of their decision to waive the right to a hearing.

2. Description of Collection

Claimants for Social Security disability payments or their representatives use Form SSA-773-U4 to officially waive their right to appear at a disability hearing. The disability hearing officer uses the signed form as a basis for not holding a hearing, and for preparing a written decision on the claimant's request for disability payments based solely on the evidence of record. The respondents are claimants for disability under Title II and Title XVI of the *Act*, or their representatives, who wish to waive their right to appear at a disability hearing.

3. Use of Information Technology to Collect the Information

Form SSA-773-U4 is available through the Internet in a portable document format (PDF) for the public to download, print, fill out, and send to SSA for processing. Paper copies of the form are also available to claimants. The respondent mails or provides a copy of the completed form to SSA.

SSA did not create an electronic version of Form SSA-773-U4 under the agency's Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA) plan because only 200 respondents complete the form. This is less than the GPEA cut-off of 50,000.

4. Why We Cannot Use Duplicate Information

The nature of the information we are collecting and the manner in which we are collecting it preclude duplication. SSA does not use another collection instrument to obtain similar data.

5. Minimizing Burden on Small Respondents

This collection does not affect small businesses or other small entities.

- 6. Consequence of Not Collecting Information or Collecting it Less Frequently**
 If we did not use Form SSA-773, claimants would not have a structured format in which to request a waiver to appear for a hearing, or documentation informing them of the effects of their decision to waive that right. SSA would also lack documentation of the claimants' informed decision. Since SSA requests this information on an as needed basis, we cannot collect it less frequently.

There are no technical or legal obstacles that prevent burden reduction.

- 7. Special Circumstances**
 There are no special circumstances that would cause SSA to conduct this information collection in a manner inconsistent with 5 *CFR* 1320.5.

- 8. Solicitation of Public Comment and Other Consultations with the Public**
 SSA published the 60-day advance Federal Register Notice on January 23, 2015, at 80 FR 3713, and we received no public comments. We published the 30-day Federal Register Notice on April 2, 2015 at 80 FR 17817. If we receive comments in response to the 30-day Notice, we will forward them to OMB. There have been no outside consultations with members of the public.

- 9. Payment or Gifts to Respondents**
 SSA does not provide payments or gifts to the respondents.

- 10. Assurances of Confidentiality**
 SSA protects and holds confidential the information it collects in accordance with 42 *U.S.C.* 1306, 20 *CFR* 401 and 402, 5 *U.S.C.* 552 (*Freedom of Information Act*), 5 *U.S.C.* 552a (*Privacy Act of 1974*), and OMB Circular No. A-130.

- 11. Justification for Sensitive Questions**
 The information collection does not contain any questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Estimates of Public Reporting Burden

Collection Instrument	Number of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Average Burden per Response (minutes)	Estimated Total Annual Burden (hours)
SSA-773-U4	200	1	3	10

- 13. Annual Cost to the Respondents (Other)**
 This collection does not impose a known cost burden on the respondents.

- 14. Annual Cost To Federal Government**
 Since the form is available electronically, there is no cost to the Federal Government for reprinting.

- 15. Program Changes or Adjustments to the Information Collection Request**
There are no changes to the public reporting burden.
- 16. Plans for Publication Information Collection Results**
SSA will not publish the results of the information collection.
- 17. Displaying the OMB Approval Expiration Date**
OMB granted SSA an exemption from the requirement to print the OMB expiration date on its program forms. SSA produces millions of public-use forms with life cycles exceeding those of an OMB approval. Since SSA does not periodically revise and reprint its public-use forms (e.g., on an annual basis), OMB granted this exemption so SSA would not have to destroy stocks of otherwise useable forms with expired OMB approval dates, avoiding Government waste.
- 18. Exceptions to Certification Statement**
SSA is not requesting an exception to the certification requirements at 5 *CFR* 1320.9 and related provisions at 5 *CFR* 1320.8(b)(3).

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

SSA does not use statistical methods for this information collection.