



## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

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Refer To: [Clmt SSN]  
[Clmt Name]

Office of Disability Adjudication and Review  
[Local Office Address]  
Tel: [Local Office Phone]/ Fax: [Local office  
Fax]

[Current Date]

<if OBO> [OBO Name] on behalf of  
[ClaimantFirstName][ClaimantLastName]  
[OBO Address]  
<else>  
[ClaimantFirstName][ClaimantLastName]  
[ClaimantAddress]  
<endif>

Dear <if OBO> [OBO Name] <else> [Addressee] <endif>

<if Martinez>  
<if AC Remand> The Appeals Council returned your case to us for further action. This letter explains the hearing process and things that you should do now to get ready for your hearing.  
<elseif Court Remand> The United States District Court returned your case to us for further action. This letter explains the hearing process and things that you should do now to get ready for your hearing. <elseif No Remand> Thank you for your request for a hearing. <endif> We will mail a Notice of Hearing to you at least 75 days before the date of your hearing to tell you its time and place. Although we will make every effort to schedule your hearing as soon as possible, there may be a delay. If you wish to discuss the status of your case, you may call us or write to us. Our telephone number and address are at the top of this page.

We are required by the district court opinion dated May 28, 1985 in *Martinez, et al. v. Secretary of HHS*, E.D.N.Y., No. 73 Civ. 900, to notify you of procedures available to you in the event of unreasonable delay in processing your case. If, after requesting the status of your case, you believe your case is being delayed unreasonably, you may apply to the United States District Court for relief, including interim benefits.

<else>  
<if AC Remand> The Appeals Council returned your case to us for further action. This letter explains the hearing process and things that you should do now to get ready for your hearing. We will send you a notice after we schedule your hearing. We will notify you at least 75 days before the date of your hearing. The notice will provide you with the time and place of your hearing. We generally process requests for hearing by date order, with the oldest receiving priority.

However, we expedite cases returned from the Appeals Council. We will schedule your hearing as soon as we can, which may take several months.

<elseif Court Remand> The United States District Court returned your case to us for further action. This letter explains the hearing process and things that you should do now to get ready for your hearing. We will send you a notice after we schedule your hearing. We will notify you at least 75 days before the date of your hearing. The notice will provide you with the time and place of your hearing. We generally process requests for hearing by date order, with the oldest receiving priority. However, we expedite cases returned from the Federal Courts. We will schedule your hearing as soon as we can, which may take several months.

<elseif No Remand> Thank you for your request for a hearing before an administrative law judge (ALJ). This letter explains the hearing process and things that you should do now to get ready for your hearing. We will send you a notice after we schedule your hearing. We will notify you at least 75 days before the date of your hearing. The notice will provide you with the time and place of your hearing. We generally process requests for hearing by date order, with the oldest receiving priority. We will schedule your hearing as soon as we can, which may take several months.

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### **Use of Video Teleconferencing (VTC) At Your Hearing**

In certain situations, we hold your hearing by VTC rather than in person. We will let you know ahead of time if we schedule your hearing by VTC.

If we schedule your appearance by VTC, you and the ALJ will be at different locations during the hearing. A large, color monitor will enable you and the ALJ to see, hear, and speak to each other. The ALJ will also be able to see, hear, and speak to anyone who comes with you to the hearing. This may include your representative (if you have one), a friend, or a family member. We will provide someone at your location to run the equipment and provide any other help you may need.

**You must let us know within 30 days after the date you receive this notice if you do not want to appear at your hearing by VTC.** (We may extend the 30-day period if you show you had good cause for missing the deadline.) **Please let us know by completing and returning the attached form in the envelope we sent** <if representative> **your representative** <else> **you** <endif>. We will arrange for you to appear in person.

If you move before we hold your hearing, we retain the right to decide how you will appear at your hearing, even if you objected to appearing by VTC. For us to consider your change of residence when we schedule your hearing, you must submit evidence proving your new residence.

<if Prior Applications>

### **Subsequent Application**

Our records show that you have a prior application(s) pending at the Appeals Council. We will not act on your current request for a hearing until the Appeals Council completes its action on your prior application(s). The Appeals Council will complete its action as soon as possible and send you a notice explaining the outcome.

- If the Appeals Council denies or dismisses your request for review or makes a partially favorable or unfavorable decision on your prior application(s), we will hold a hearing on your current application(s). We will send you a Notice of Hearing at least 75 days before the date of your hearing to tell you its time and place.
- If the Appeals Council decides to remand your prior application(s) for a new hearing, we may combine your prior and current applications for the new hearing. We will send you a Notice of Hearing at least 75 days before the date of your hearing to tell you its time and place.
- If the Appeals Council makes a favorable decision on your prior application(s) that resolves all the issues in the current application(s), we will take no further action on your new application(s).

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## **The Hearing**

At your hearing, you may present your case to the ALJ who will make the decision on your claim(s). The ALJ will consider the issue(s) you raise, the evidence now in your file, and any additional evidence you provide. The ALJ may also consider other issues, including issues that were decided in your favor in the decision you appealed. The Notice of Hearing will list the issues the ALJ plans to consider at the hearing.

Your hearing is the time to explain why you believe the ALJ should decide the issues in your favor.

## **Your Right to An Interpreter At Your Hearing**

**You are not required to bring an interpreter.** You **must** request an interpreter so we can provide an interpreter **free of charge**. When you request an interpreter, tell us what language you prefer (including ASL). An interpreter can be requested by calling our office or sending a letter.

<if no Rep>

## **Your Right To Representation**

You may choose to have a representative help you. We will work with this person just as we would work with you. If you decide to have a representative, you should find one quickly so that person can start preparing your case.

Many representatives charge a fee only if you receive benefits. Others may represent you for free. Usually, your representative may not charge a fee unless we approve it. We are enclosing a list of groups that can help you find a representative.

If you get a representative, you or that person must notify us in writing. You may use our Form SSA 1696-U4 Appointment of Representative. Any local Social Security office can give you this form.

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## **Submitting Evidence**

We need to make sure that your file has everything that the ALJ will need to decide your case. After the ALJ reviews the evidence in your file, he or she may request more evidence to consider at your hearing.

You are required to inform us about or submit all evidence known to you that relates to whether or not you are blind or disabled. <if rep> Your representative must help you inform us about or submit the evidence, unless the evidence falls under an exception. <endif> You must inform us about or give us evidence no later than five business days before the date of your hearing. The ALJ may choose to not consider the evidence if you fail to provide it timely.

We can help you get evidence. If you need help, contact our office, your local Social Security office, or your representative (if you appoint one) immediately.

If a physician, expert, or other person is not providing documents important to your case, you may ask the ALJ to issue a subpoena. A subpoena is a special document that requires a person to submit documents or to testify at your hearing. The ALJ will issue a subpoena only if he or she thinks the evidence is necessary to decide your case, and the evidence cannot be obtained another way. You must ask the ALJ to issue a subpoena at least 10 days before your hearing date. Send your request in writing to the address at the top of the first page of this letter.

## **You May See The Evidence In Your File**

If you wish to see the evidence in your file, you can see it on or before the date of your hearing. If you wish to see your file before the date of your hearing, please call us as soon as you reasonably can at the number at the top of the first page of this letter.

## **If You Have Any Questions Or Your Address Changes**

If you have any questions, please call or write us. You must tell us if you change your address. For your convenience, we gave you our telephone number and address on the first page of this letter.

Sincerely yours,

[Signee Name]  
[Signee Title]

Enclosures:

Claimant's copy (if Spanish notice is not selected)

HA-55 (Objection to Appearing by Video Teleconferencing)

SSA Publication No. 05-10075 (Your Right To Representation) if no rep

HA-L1 (Important Notice Regarding Representation) if no rep

HA-L4 (What Happens Next) if What Happens Next is checked

HA-827 (Medical Release Notice) if Med. Release Notice and Form is checked

SSA-827 (Authorization to Disclose Information to SSA) if Med. Release Notice and Form is checked

SSA Publication No. 70-067 (Why You Should Have Your Hearing By Video)

Representative's copy

Form HA-L2 (Request for Hearing Acknowledgement Letter - Spanish) if Spanish notice is checked

HA-L4-SP (What Happens Next - Spanish) if Spanish notice is checked and What Happens Next is checked

HA-L4 (What Happens Next) if What Happens Next is checked

Form SSA-L1697-U3 (Acknowledgement of Representation)

Form HA-L32 (Electronic Disability Claims Processing Insert) if fully electronic

HA-827 (Medical Release Notice) if Med. Release Notice and Form is checked

SSA-827 (Authorization to Disclose Information to SSA) if Med. Release Notice and Form is checked

SSA Publication No. 70-067-SP (Why You Should Have Your Hearing By Video) if Spanish notice is checked

Barcode Sheet if fully electronic

<if Rep>

cc: [Rep First Name] [Rep Last Name]

[Rep Address]

<endif>

# Why You Should Have Your Hearing By Video

If you are getting ready for a hearing before an administrative law judge, Social Security offers an efficient method using new technology—video hearings. With video hearings, we can make the hearing more convenient for you. Often an appearance by video hearing can be scheduled faster than an in-person appearance.

## What is a video hearing?

A video hearing allows you and the other hearing participants to see and hear each other through large color television screens. The judge remains in his or her office, and you go to a site that can be more convenient to where you live. A technician is there to make sure the equipment works smoothly.

## How is a video hearing different?

Except for the equipment, a video hearing is no different than a hearing at which you appear in person. The judge can see you and speak with you and anyone who comes to the hearing with you, such as your representative or any witnesses. You can see the judge and anyone who is with the judge—or anyone at another video teleconference site, such as a medical or vocational expert. Transmission of the hearing is secure, and your privacy is protected. We do not videotape hearings, but we do make audio recordings—as we do for all hearings.

## What are the advantages of a video hearing?

Often an appearance by video hearing can be scheduled faster than an in-person appearance. That means less waiting time. Also, a video hearing location may be closer to your home. That might make it easier for you to have witnesses or other people accompany you.

## How is a video hearing scheduled?

If we are using video hearing equipment in your area, we will contact you to schedule a video appearance for you at a convenient time. The judge will consider any preference you may have expressed for or against appearing by video teleconferencing when setting the time and place of your hearing. You will have an opportunity to object to the set time or place.

If you have any questions or want more information, please contact your hearing office when you receive your acknowledgment of your request for a hearing.

[www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)



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