

## § 405.366

evidence introduced at the hearing becomes the evidence of record in each claim adjudicated. The administrative law judge may issue either a consolidated decision or separate decisions for each claim.

### § 405.366 Posthearing conferences.

(a) The administrative law judge may decide, on his or her own initiative or at your request, to hold a posthearing conference to facilitate the hearing decision. A posthearing conference normally will be held by telephone unless the administrative law judge decides that conducting it in another manner would be more efficient and effective in addressing the issues raised. We will give you reasonable notice of the time, place, and manner of the conference. A record of the conference will be made and placed in the hearing record.

(b) If neither you nor the person you designate to act as your representative appears at the posthearing conference, and under § 405.380(b), you do not have a good reason for failing to appear, we will issue a decision based on the information available in your claim.

### § 405.370 Decision by the administrative law judge.

(a) The administrative law judge will make a decision based on all of the evidence, including the testimony adduced at the hearing. The administrative law judge will prepare a written decision that explains in clear and understandable language the specific reasons for the decision. While the administrative law judge will not consider the Federal reviewing official's decision to be evidence, the written decision will explain in detail why the administrative law judge agrees or disagrees with the substantive findings and overall rationale of the decision.

(b) During the hearing, in certain categories of claims that we identify in advance, the administrative law judge may orally explain in clear and understandable language the specific reasons for, and enter into the record, a wholly favorable decision. The administrative law judge will include in the record a document that sets forth the key data, findings of fact, and narrative rationale for the decision. Within five days after the hearing, if there are no subse-

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quent changes to the analysis in the oral decision, we will send you a written decision that incorporates such oral decision by reference and that explains why the administrative law judge agrees or disagrees with the substantive findings and overall rationale of the Federal reviewing official's decision. If there is a change in the administrative law judge's analysis or decision, we will send you a written decision that is consistent with paragraph (a) of this section. Upon written request, we will provide you a record of the oral decision.

### § 405.371 Notice of the decision of an administrative law judge.

We will send a notice and the administrative law judge's decision to you at your last known address. The notice accompanying the decision will inform you whether or not the decision is our final decision, and will explain your right to representation. If it is not our final decision, the notice will explain that the Decision Review Board has taken review of your claim.

### § 405.372 Finality of an administrative law judge's decision.

The decision of the administrative law judge becomes our final decision and is binding on you unless—

(a) The Decision Review Board reviews your claim,

(b) An administrative law judge or the Decision Review Board revises the decision under subpart G of this part,

(c) A Federal court reverses the decision or remands it for further administrative action, or

(d) The administrative law judge considers new evidence under § 405.373.

### § 405.373 Requesting consideration of new evidence.

(a) If the administrative law judge's decision is our final decision, the administrative law judge will consider new evidence submitted after the issuance of the decision if your claim has not been referred to the Decision Review Board. To obtain such consideration, you must request consideration by the administrative law judge at the earliest possible opportunity, but no later than 30 days after the date you receive notice of the decision.

(b) The administrative law judge will accept the evidence if you show that there is a reasonable probability that the evidence, alone or when considered with the other evidence of record, would change the outcome of the decision, and:

(1) Our action misled you;

(2) You had a physical, mental, educational, or linguistic limitation(s) that prevented you from submitting the evidence earlier; or

(3) Some other unusual, unexpected, or unavoidable circumstance beyond your control prevented you from submitting the evidence earlier.

(c)(1) The administrative law judge will notify you within 10 days whether or not he or she will reconsider the final decision.

(2) If the administrative law judge declines to reconsider his or her decision, the decision remains final. If you choose to seek judicial review, you must file in Federal court within the 60-day period beginning with the date you originally received the final decision.

(3) If the administrative law judge agrees to reconsider his or her decision based on the new evidence, the final decision is vacated and not subject to judicial review. After considering the new evidence, the administrative law judge will take appropriate action, including rendering a decision under § 405.370, and we will send you notice of the decision under § 405.371.

(d) If the administrative law judge's decision is not our final decision, you must submit your evidence to the Decision Review Board, and the Board will consider it if you make the showings required in paragraph (b) of this section.

**§ 405.380 Dismissal of a request for a hearing before an administrative law judge.**

An administrative law judge may dismiss a request for a hearing:

(a) At any time before notice of the hearing decision is mailed, when you withdraw the request orally on the record at the hearing or in writing;

(b)(1) If neither you nor the person you designate to act as your representative appears at the hearing or at the prehearing conference, we previously

notified you that your request for hearing may be dismissed if you did not appear, and you do not give a good reason for failing to appear; or

(2) If neither you nor the person you designate to act as your representative appears at the hearing or at the prehearing conference, we had not previously notified you that your request for hearing may be dismissed if you did not appear, and within 10 days after we send you a notice asking why you did not appear, you do not give a good reason for failing to appear.

(3) In determining whether you had a good reason under this paragraph, we will consider the factors described in § 405.20(a) of this part;

(c) If the doctrine of *res judicata* applies because we have made a previous determination or decision on your disability claim on the same facts and on the same issue or issues, and this previous determination or decision has become final;

(d) If you have no right to a hearing under § 405.305;

(e) If you did not request a hearing in time and we have not extended the time for requesting a hearing; or

(f) If you die and your estate or any person to whom an underpayment may be distributed under §§ 404.503 or 416.542 of this chapter has not pursued your claim.

**§ 405.381 Notice of dismissal of a request for a hearing before an administrative law judge.**

We will mail a written notice of the dismissal of the hearing request to you at your last known address. The notice will tell you that you may ask the administrative law judge to vacate the dismissal (see § 405.382), and will explain your right to representation. The notice will also tell you that you may ask the Decision Review Board to review the dismissal if the administrative law judge does not vacate it.

**§ 405.382 Vacating a dismissal of a request for a hearing before an administrative law judge.**

If you ask in writing within 30 days after the date you receive the notice of dismissal, an administrative law judge may vacate a dismissal of a hearing request. The administrative law judge