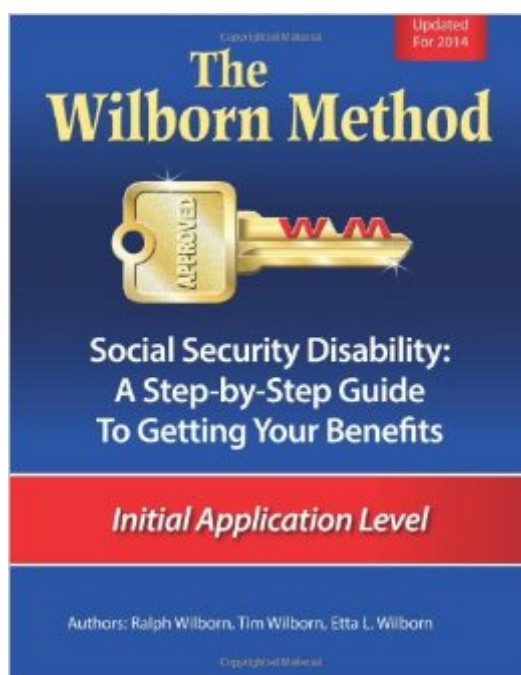


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# The Wilborn Method, Social Security Disability: A Step-by-Step Guide To Getting Your Benefits: Initial Application Level



## Synopsis

Co-authored by a former Social Security Judge, this book is a how-to manual for (non-blind) disabled adult claimants who are applying for Social Security Disability or SSI benefits and whose claims are at the initial application level. A recent study showed that about 6 out of 10 disability applications were denied at the initial level. Even worse, only about 1 in 4 of those denied claims ever was won on appeal. In other words, if you don't win at the initial level, there's only about a 1 in 4 chance you ever will! You need to make your strongest case at the initial application level, where your chances of winning are best. But how? First, you need to understand the process. Most of what claimants do at the initial application stage is answer questions on forms. Most applicants answer Social Security's questions incorrectly, inadequately, incompletely, or inappropriately. Too often, this leads to an undeserved denial. This book shows how to respond to each question on Social Security's 4 major forms, so you can maximize your chances of winning at the initial application level, when your chances of winning are best. Second, you need to take action. Many claimants take a wait-and-see approach: They wait until Social Security denies the claim at least once before they try to understand the process or get help. By then, it's often too late! For those claimants, the best chance of winning is gone, and they may have damaged their claims beyond repair by giving inaccurate, uninformed, or incomplete answers. We wrote *The Wilborn Method* to help disabled people understand and complete Social Security's forms so they maximize their chances of winning at the initial application level. A self-help Social Security disability book should show you what you have to do to win your case! That is what this book does. We explain the disability process and the rules for proving you're disabled. We start with 11 chapters explaining the basics you need to know, then we guide you, question-by-question, through Social Security's 4 major forms. We answer three questions you must ask yourself when you read the questions on Social Security's forms: 1) Why is Social Security asking these specific questions? 2) How will Social Security use the answers? and 3) How much detail does Social Security need? We show you how to answer each question so you give a complete and accurate picture of your impairments, your limitations, your education, and your work history. We explain which of Social Security's questions aren't really asking what they appear to be asking, and we explain how to avoid getting trapped in wrong or inconsistent answers. For Social Security, the third party witness questionnaire can be a rich source of contradictions—contradictions that often are used to deny claims. We discuss ways to make this questionnaire work for you, instead of against you. To prove you're disabled, you must have medical evidence. We explain what your doctors should and should not do to help prove you're disabled. We even have two forms you can use to get useful

and meaningful opinions from your doctors. The value of our guidance doesn't end at the initial application level. If you have to appeal your case, these forms stay in the record for as long as your case is appealed! At the hearing level, Social Security's judges look carefully at the answers on the initial level forms. They use careless or uninformed answers on these forms to deny disability claims. Giving inadequate answers on Social Security's initial level forms hurts more than your chances of winning early—it also can cripple your chances of winning later. Whether or not you hire a representative to help you, if you follow the instructions in The Wilborn Method, you'll avoid common mistakes that may harm your case. You'll also give the necessary details to improve your chances of winning quickly. NOTE: Our website, referenced in this book and containing additional resources, has moved to [wilbornlaw.com](http://wilbornlaw.com).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is indeed wordy and a lot of information. It also walks you through the basic application and the adult function report. It goes question by question and has instruction for everything including what information they are looking for and examples of what is and isn't helpful answer-wise. This was a huge help for me with the adult function report. I ended up attaching quite a few pages to my report to detail what was highlighted in this workbook, especially useful in answering questions 5 and 6, how the disability limits the ability to work and describe a typical day from the time you wake up until going to bed. I wish I bought this book sooner, and found the Wilborn Method extremely helpful. It took all of the stress of completing the reports away, although it was a lot of work for me. A must buy if you are applying and have a function report to complete and would like instruction step by step, something I need with my disability. I also recommend Patricia Petow's how to get social

security disability book. It is much shorter, concise, and a good quick reference for many of the questions on the report as well.

Wow, what a great reference book! I need to apply for SSDI, so I went to the SocSec website and was immediately overwhelmed. I checked online for a free consultation with a lawyer, and he was next to useless; he told me I could do it myself. A friend of mine said "why don't you go online and look for a 'SSDI for Dummies' book". I never thought to look for a book, but this book is just what I need. I was in a car accident and now have some cognitive deficits. This book offers you as much help as you need. On one of the 1st pages is a check-off progress sheet that I'm following to a T. This book demystifies the terminology and process, explains exactly how determinations are made, what you need to do, and in what order you need to do it. Do it right the first time and let this book walk you through the process. You will be so glad you did! I don't feel alone and overwhelmed any more with this book as my guide.

I used the guidelines in this workbook to help me complete my application for SSDI. I have several physical problems; this book helped me to focus on presenting my disability case to the SSA. First the book helps one establish if there is case to win benefits for SSDI; why go through all the trouble of applying for benefits if you don't have a case? The SSA has several forms to complete; the book helps a person to tie all their information together; your application must be consistent across all the SSA forms and this book shows you how to do it. The book is NOT about exaggerating, lying or stretching the truth in your application. The book IS about providing all the correct information the SSA needs your FIRST time applying for benefits. Don't mess around; don't get the denials in the mail and reply with appeals which could take years! Read the book, fill out the application, read the book again and check your application. The book recommends writing as many comments as possible even though they may appear redundant. The author not only recommends checking the correct "yes" or "no" boxes, but also explain why you checked those boxes. The Wilborn Method explains how you can help the SSA approve your application. You do the leg work such as rounding up your medical records and including them with your application; get your doctor to complete a "Residual Function Capacity Form" and include it with your application. By the time I was finished with my SSDI application it was 165 pages long, completely self contained leaving the SSA nothing to do other than review the application. Since I am not well, it took me weeks to prepare the application, but I don't want to do this again. Thanks to the Wilborn Method, I am confident that I gave the SSA all the information they need to approve my application. This was done without a

lawyer; this book is what you need! I will update this review when the SSA decides my case.

This is the best book out of six that I've read. Wish I had gotten this first and skipped the rest.

THE definitive guide for all SS disability applicants. There is much valuable information here from authors who know the program inside and out. If you need help navigating the waters of a Social Security disability claim, it's right here. Get it.

I have not yet filed, but I have gone through the book and it really does walk you through each section - very concise and well arranged; I have no doubt it will be very helpful.

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