

and under § 405.380(b), you do not have a good reason for failing to appear, we may dismiss the hearing request.

§ 405.331. Submitting evidence to an administrative law judge.

(a) You should submit with your request for hearing any evidence that you have available to you. Any written evidence that you wish to be considered at the hearing must be submitted no later than five business days before the date of the scheduled hearing. If you do not comply with this requirement, the administrative law judge may decline to consider the evidence unless the circumstances described in paragraphs (b) or (c) of this section apply.

(b) If you miss the deadline described in paragraph (a) of this section and you wish to submit evidence during the five business days before the hearing or at the hearing, the administrative law judge will accept the evidence if you show that:

- (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) If you miss the deadline described in paragraph (a) of this section and you wish to submit evidence after the hearing and before the hearing decision is issued, the administrative law judge will accept the evidence if you show that there is a reasonable possibility that the evidence, alone or when considered with the other evidence of record, would affect the outcome of your claim, 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.

§ 405.332. Subpoenas.

(a) When it is reasonably necessary for the full presentation of a claim, an

administrative law judge may, on his or her own initiative or at your request, issue subpoenas for the appearance and testimony of witnesses and for the production of any documents that are relevant to an issue at the hearing.

(b) To have documents or witnesses subpoenaed, you must file a written request for a subpoena with the administrative law judge at least 10 days before the hearing date. The written request must:

- (1) Give the names of the witnesses or documents to be produced;
- (2) Describe the address or location of the witnesses or documents with sufficient detail to find them;
- (3) State the important facts that the witness or document is expected to show; and
- (4) Indicate why these facts could not be shown without that witness or document.

(c) We will pay the cost of issuing the subpoena and pay subpoenaed witnesses the same fees and mileage they would receive if they had been subpoenaed by a Federal district court.

(d) Within five days of receipt of a subpoena, but no later than the date of the hearing, the person against whom the subpoena is directed may ask the administrative law judge to withdraw or limit the scope of the subpoena, setting forth the reasons why the subpoena should be withdrawn or why it should be limited in scope.

(e) Upon failure of any person to comply with a subpoena, the Office of the General Counsel may seek enforcement of the subpoena under section 205(e) of the Act.

§ 405.333. Submitting documents.

All documents prepared and submitted by you, *i.e.*, not including medical or other evidence that is prepared by persons other than the claimant or his or her representative, should clearly designate the name of the claimant and the last four digits of the claimant's social security number. All such documents must be clear and legible to the fullest extent practicable and delivered or mailed to the administrative law judge within the time frames that he or she prescribes. Documents that are typewritten or produced with word

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processing software must use type face no smaller than 12 point font.

§ 405.334 Prehearing statements.

(a) At any time before the hearing begins, you may submit, or the administrative law judge may request that you submit, a prehearing statement as to why you are disabled.

(b) Unless otherwise requested by the administrative law judge, a prehearing statement should discuss briefly the following matters:

- (1) Issues involved in the proceeding,
- (2) Facts,
- (3) Witnesses,
- (4) The evidentiary and legal basis upon which your disability claim can be approved, and
- (5) Any other comments, suggestions, or information that might assist the administrative law judge in preparing for the hearing.

§ 405.340 Deciding a claim without a hearing before an administrative law judge.

(a) *Decision wholly favorable.* If the evidence in the record supports a decision wholly in your favor, the administrative law judge may issue a decision without holding a hearing. However, the notice of the decision will inform you that you have the right to a hearing and that you have a right to examine the evidence on which the decision is based.

(b) *You do not wish to appear.* The administrative law judge may decide a claim on the record and not conduct a hearing if—

- (1) You state in writing that you do not wish to appear at a hearing, or
- (2) You live outside the United States and you do not inform us that you want to appear.

(c) When a hearing is not held, the administrative law judge will make a record of the evidence, which, except for the transcript of the hearing, will contain the material described in § 405.360. The decision of the administrative law judge must be based on this record.

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§ 405.350 Presenting evidence at a hearing before an administrative law judge.

(a) *The right to appear and present evidence.* You have a right to appear before the administrative law judge, either in person or, when the administrative law judge determines that the conditions in § 405.315(c) exist, by video teleconferencing, to present evidence and to state your position. You also may appear by means of a designated representative.

(b) *Admissible evidence.* The administrative law judge may receive any evidence at the hearing that he or she believes relates to your claim.

(c) *Witnesses at a hearing.* Witnesses who appear at a hearing shall testify under oath or by affirmation, unless the administrative law judge finds an important reason to excuse them from taking an oath or making an affirmation. The administrative law judge, you, or your representative may ask the witnesses any questions relating to your claim.

§ 405.351 Closing statements.

You or your representative may present a closing statement to the administrative law judge—

- (a) Orally at the end of the hearing,
- (b) In writing after the hearing and within a reasonable time period set by the administrative law judge, or
- (c) By using both methods under paragraphs (a) and (b).

§ 405.360 Official record.

All hearings will be recorded. All evidence upon which the administrative law judge relies for the decision must be contained in the record, either directly or by appropriate reference. The official record will include the applications, written statements, certificates, reports, affidavits, medical records, and other documents that were used in making the decision under review and any additional evidence or written statements that the administrative law judge admits into the record under §§ 405.320(a) and 405.331. All exhibits introduced as evidence must be marked for identification and incorporated into the record. The official record of your claim will contain all of the marked exhibits and a verbatim recording of all