

or if you return to work, be sure to let the Social Security Administration know, either by sending in the postcard form which will be given you for this purpose, or by writing a letter. You are required by law to do this.

Under the law, beneficiaries who work despite severe handicaps can continue to be paid their benefits during 12 months—whether they go to work under a vocational rehabilitation plan, or on their own.

Not until after the first 9 months (not necessarily consecutive months) of work in a trial work period will a decision be made as to whether you have shown that you have regained your ability to work. If the decision is that you are able to engage in substantial work, and therefore are no longer disabled within the meaning of the law, you will still be paid benefits for 3 months longer—to the end of the 12-month period.

The law also provides a period of adjustment for beneficiaries who recover before they have tested their ability to work, as well as for beneficiaries who recover from their disabilities before they have worked in each of 9 months. They will have their benefits paid to them for 3 months after they recover.

In any event, you should let your social security office know as soon as you start work.

The law provides that if you become disabled a second time within 5 years after your benefits have stopped, your disability benefits can begin with the first month in which you are disabled, if you still meet the work requirements as explained on pages 8-10. You are not required to serve a second 6-month waiting period.