

§ 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.