



CHANGES TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY VERIFICATION SYSTEM

Decree-Law no. 8/2024 of January 5, which defines the disability verification system within the scope of social security came into force on April 1, 2024.

As it can be read in the preamble to the new Decree-law, its aim is to adapt the disability verification system "to the new legal and social reality, changing the way it works in order to make it more effective and efficient, thus contributing to a more careful and swifter allocation of benefits in the context of illness, invalidity, disability and dependency".

Among the new measures adopted to achieve these goals are:

How and when a beneficiary can be summoned to a medical examination

Summoning of the beneficiary to the medical examination can be done through the social security electronic notification system, by SMS, by e-mail, in person or by any other means provided for by law, at least two working days in advance, unlike before this legislative change, when the summons had to be made by registered letter at least ten days in advance.

Verification, reassessment and appeal committees can be held by video call

The verification, reassessment and appeal committees can be held by video call, and the clinical examination can even be carried out by purely documentary assessment.

Medical examinations can be carried out at home

Medical examinations can be carried out at home, this being the solution adopted whenever the beneficiary is bedridden, hospitalized, institutionalized, or when it is clearly difficult for the beneficiary to travel to the social security services.

Monitoring the obligation to remain at home

In addition to these measures aimed at speeding up social benefits, measures have also been adopted to guarantee the careful allocation of these benefits. It is now stipulated that the obligation to remain at home during the period of incapacity will be monitored at all times by social security teams, which may be accompanied by medical experts, and with recourse to police or inspection authorities.

José Carlos Silva
jose.cs@caldeirapires.pt