



## Total and Permanent Disability Discharge Process

**1. Complete Application:** To get a copy of the application form, click on: [Loan Discharge Application: Total and Permanent Disability Discharge](#). Complete and sign sections 1 and 2. The doctor (licensed in the U.S.) must complete and sign Section 3. The doctor must provide detailed information about your condition and how it prevents you from working and earning money, even on a limited basis. Additional sheets can be attached if necessary. Attachments must be signed and dated by your doctor.

**2. Return Application & Wait for Notification:** The loan holder is defined as the agency that is collecting the debt. It could be a lender/servicer, private collection agency, or loan guarantor. You should comply with requests for additional information. Unless otherwise notified, you should continue to make payments until notified of a decision. If your application is denied, you must repay the debt. You can reapply for discharge later if your condition worsens.

**3. Eligible?** If preliminary eligibility is established, it does not mean that the loan is discharged. Additional instructions will come from the Department of Education's (ED) Conditional Disability Discharge Unit (CDDU). Approval from ED can take several months.

**4. Preliminary Eligibility:** If preliminary eligibility is established, the loan will be transferred to the CDDU for further processing. The CDDU will notify you that it is the new loan holder and continue processing your TPD application. You must pass all 3 ED eligibility criteria: (1) You must be medically eligible based on ED's criteria; (2) You cannot receive loan disbursements after the unable to work date; and (3) You must submit income information for 3 years after your date of disability. ED will notify you to get information from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) using IRS Form 4506T. If you are found eligible by ED and have completed the 3-year conditional period, your loan will be discharged. Payments made after the date of your disability are refunded.

If you have not completed the 3-year conditional period, your account will be monitored until the period is complete. Once the period is completed, if you are still eligible, the loan will be discharged and payments made after your unable to work date will be refunded.

**Note:** Your loan can be reinstated at any time during the conditional period if you do not remain eligible.

**5. If CDDU Denies Application:** If you are found ineligible by CDDU, you must resume repayment after you are notified of your new loan holder. Current regulations do not provide for an appeal of decisions made by ED; however, you can re-apply for discharge if your condition worsens.