

ELIGIBILITY:

Provincial Court Act

To be eligible to apply for a disability pension, a Judge has held judicial office for not less than two years and becomes afflicted with some permanent infirmity disabling him or her from the due execution of his or her office; if he or she resigns or by reason of such infirmity is removed from office.

Provincial Court Judges' Pension Act

To be eligible to apply for disability benefits a judge has at least two years of pensionable service and, as the result of becoming disabled, ceases to be an active judge and ceases to perform the duties of the position or office of a judge. All sick leave benefits must be used prior to payment of a disability benefit.

“**Disabled**” means, in relation to a Member under the ***Provincial Court Judges' Pension Act*** suffering from a physical or mental impairment that prevents the judge from performing the duties of the position or office of a judge, in which the judge was engaged before the beginning of the impairment.

PROCESS:

The applications for disability pension benefits will be forwarded to the Government of New Brunswick Case Management Team at Medavie Blue Cross for assessment. The Case Management Team assesses claims under a multi-disciplinary approach. In addition to General Practitioners (GP's) and Psychiatrist's, the team includes Registered Nurses, Nutritionists, Social Workers, Dental Technicians, Kinesiologists and Radiology Technicians.

A member of the Case Management Team will review the application, the medical information submitted and assess whether or not the claimant meets the definition of disability as defined under the applicable Pension Plan. If additional information is required to render a decision, Medavie Blue Cross will contact the Attending Physician and/or the claimant (as applicable).

There is no formal appeal process. However, if a claim has been denied and the letter of denial has been sent to the claimant, the claimant can re-apply (it will be treated as a new claim) as follows:

- Use a copy of your original “application” form and write on the top of the form “**Revised application (include the date of this application) – new medical information relevant to the claim for disability pension benefits will be provided**”; and
- Ask the Attending Physician to send the new medical information directly to Medavie Blue Cross on your behalf.

The decision to approve or deny the Disability Pension will be sent in a letter addressed directly to the claimant with a copy sent to the Pensions & Employee Benefits Division within seven (7) business days of the receipt of all the information required to render a decision.

If the claimant has any questions about their claim he/she can contact the Disability Claims Specialist at Medavie Blue Cross.

NOTE: The claimant is responsible for any fees incurred to complete the forms.

APPLICATION FOR DISABILITY BENEFIT / PENSION PROCESS

To avoid unnecessary delays in the processing of this claim, please read these instructions in full.

Claimant:

1. Contact a Benefit Counsellor at Pensions & Employee Benefits Division to request the following forms:
 - a. Application for Disability Pension (Employee Statement), and
 - b. Attending Physician's Statement (of Extended Disability)
2. Complete all of the questions and sections on the Application Form for Disability Pension:
3. **Read the section on *Assignment, Certification and Authorization*, complete your address and telephone number, date and sign the form.**

ATTENDING PHYSICIAN

The Claimant must request that their attending physician complete the Attending Physician's Statement (of Extended Disability) form.

To avoid any delays, the Claimant should advise the Attending Physician that in addition to completing the form, all recent consultation and clinical notes are to be attached to the Attending Physician's Statement.

The Attending Physician can submit the completed forms directly to Medavie Blue Cross

Medavie Blue Cross
Case Management Services
644 rue Main Street, PO Box 220,
Moncton, NB E1C 8L3

CONTACT INFORMATION AT MEDAVIE BLUE CROSS

Claim inquiries: Ellen Melanson
Tel: 506 867-4305
Toll free: 1 877-347-5055
Email: ellen.melanson@medavie.bluecross.ca

Application for Disability Pension (Employee Statement) to be mailed to:

Pensions & Employee Benefits Division
PO Box 6000, Kings Place Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1
Tel: 506 453-2296 (local) or Toll free: 1-800-561-4012