

*Just four days before his house was to be foreclosed, Archie Williams learned that the Social Security Administration had [awarded his Social Security Disability Insurance benefits](#). Allsup Inc. came to the rescue...*

## **Just in Time**

**Victoria, Texas** -- For Archie Williams, a highly skilled and well-respected electrician for 43 years, nothing could be more painful than having to give up the work he so loved and risk losing his home.

For years, the Texas native, now 61, perfected his trade in a number of areas, from residential and commercial construction to industrial and maintenance work. Even with numerous physical problems, many resulting from the strenuous work that he did, Mr. Williams continued to search for meaningful jobs until he could no more, and eventually [applied for Social Security Disability Insurance benefits](#).

His difficult journey began in 1995 when he experienced problems with both shoulders, which required surgery. In 1999, he injured his left knee and had two more operations. This was followed by coronary bypass surgery for five arteries in May 2000, just a few months after his employer filed for bankruptcy. And if open-heart surgery wasn't enough, he returned to the hospital two more times in May for additional surgery.

“After two weeks in intensive care, I got home, sneezed real hard and was back in the hospital to fix a broken sternum,” Mr. Williams recalled ruefully. Yet even after all of this, he still needed and wanted to work. For nearly two years, he worked as an electrical

inspector until he was laid off in November 2002. An avid deer hunter, Williams would now have some time to enjoy the sport. But during the first weekend of deer-hunting season in November that same year, he fell from a four-wheel all-terrain vehicle and seriously injured his back.

“My wife wanted me to file for [Social Security disability benefits](#) then because of my heart surgery and my back pain. Plus I was diabetic and had high cholesterol. But I put it off and got another job working for an offshore rig construction company till I was laid off again in 2003,” he said.

Mr. Williams finally decided to take his wife’s advice and apply for disability benefits. As is the case with most applicants, the [Social Security Administration denied his claim](#). Twice, he appealed the decision, only to be turned down again. “I was spending so much time at the Social Security office that the security guard and I became really good friends,” he said.

His wry humor aside, Mr. Williams became disillusioned. His back pain was intense and he was plagued with other ailments. He said [the Social Security Administration was seven years behind in claims](#) and he believed the agency was insensitive to his situation and just didn’t seem to work fast enough. [Texas ranks 7<sup>th</sup> worst in average wait times at the hearing level.] “Everyone was very nice, but no one talked to each other and I could never get a straight answer,” he explained.

In failing health, 60 years old and with rapidly depleting his assets, Mr. Williams discovered Allsup Inc., the nation's leading [Social Security Disability Insurance representation](#) company, just in time. With a 97 percent success rate, Allsup has helped tens of thousands of people with disabilities claim nearly \$1.5 billion in [Social Security Disability Insurance](#) and Medicare benefits since 1984. With [a nationwide backlog of more than 750,000 disability cases pending at the hearing level alone](#), Allsup helps individuals navigate the complexities of the system to claim their rightful benefits.

In April 2006, Mr. Williams began working with [Ed Swierczek, an Allsup senior claimant representative](#) with more than 30 years' [Social Security Disability Insurance experience](#). Mr. Swierczek prepared three case briefs and four case letters. Time was critical. Mr. Swierczek knew that Mr. Williams and his wife were about to lose their home. He could no longer work at the level he had before, and he was too old to be retrained. This was a claim that truly deserved to be approved and quickly!

"I was losing everything," Mr. Williams said. "I had gone through my savings and 401(k); I sold my car, two trucks and my gun collection."

Just when it seemed almost hopeless, the Social Security Administration awarded his claim in February 2007, less than one year after Allsup's initial filing. The first payment arrived in March 2007, just four days shy of his home being foreclosed. "I don't know what I would have done without Allsup and the deputy sheriff who said she would slow the paper work down a bit," Mr. Williams said.

Today, Mr. Williams receives [monthly Social Security Disability Insurance payments](#) and his Medicare benefits begin September. “I went through quite a lot and I wouldn’t want to wish this on anyone,” he said, “but the people at Allsup were great. They kept me informed every step of the way, and they earned every bit of their fee.”

With some of his financial worries aside, Mr. Williams can now concentrate on his health issues. He takes 14 pills each day and he never forgets to eat his daily banana. Still suffering from chronic back pain and no longer able to do many of the activities he once enjoyed such as gardening or golfing, he can still do some things. Just recently, he refinished a wood rocker for his wife, who is now retired.

What’s next for Archie Williams, the easygoing guy from Victoria, Texas? Maybe reclaiming his titles in area barbeque tournaments. A multiple first and second- place winner in barbeque and a two-time champion for his beans, he figures if he takes it slow and his wife takes up some slack, he’ll have a chance to grab another trophy.

His winning technique and recipes? “It’s in the seasonings,” he said with a smile in his voice.