

## Social Security

If you have filed for Social Security Disability or SSI benefits, you may be wondering whether you should hire an attorney to represent you. There are several ways that an attorney can help you with your claim. The earlier you hire an attorney, the more that they can help you through the process and protect your right to these benefits.

First of all, in the early stages of the appeal process, the Social Security Administration sends you numerous forms that request certain information from you. These forms request information regarding your work history, medical treatment, pain and other symptoms, and also ask you to explain how you are physically and mentally affected by your health problems.

It may seem ok to go ahead and fill out these forms without help from a lawyer. However, some of these forms are very complex and confusing. If you don't understand the questions or if you don't completely fill out the forms and properly explain your answers, you can seriously hurt your chances of getting the benefits you deserve. We have represented clients in the past who had filled out these forms before hiring an attorney and have given incomplete information or have not understood what was being asked of them and their cases were made much more difficult to win as a result.

An attorney can also advise you about obtaining the appropriate medical treatment in order to properly document your disabilities. Without proper medical documentation, it is difficult to get a favorable court decision. The attorney can also gather all available medical documentation before your court hearing.

The Social Security Administration does not always follow up on their requests for documentation, leaving your file incomplete. Don't count on them to obtain all of the available records that are needed for your claim.

It is very common for your claim to be denied at least once and sometimes twice before you even get a chance to go to court and have your case heard by a judge. Once you get your day in court, it is vitally important that you and your attorney be prepared for the hearing. Your testimony and the information presented at the hearing has a great deal to do with whether or not you get benefits. Neither their attorney nor the claimant can be prepared for the hearing by meeting at the hearing site thirty minutes before the hearing.

You need an attorney that will spend the necessary time on your case. That will increase your chances of getting benefits. Don't give up on your claim if you get denied. Let us help you through this frustrating process. Give us a call so we can sit down and discuss your case in detail and protect your right to the social security benefits you deserve.

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