

Do You Need a Social Security Attorney to Appeal a Case?

Q: What happens at the first interview after you apply for disability through social security?

A: Your disability application interview will be set up shortly after you submit your application for social security disability. This interview is the starting point for your case manager to gather pertinent information regarding your injury or condition and your work status. If you have a social security attorney, he or she will help you prepare for that interview. You may not plan to hire a social security attorney, in which case you should get organized and assure that you arrive at that interview with all the necessary items. Some sort of photo identification, like a drivers license or passport, is required. If you do not have a photo ID, you will be asked a series of questions to confirm who you are. Provide a certified copy of your birth certificate. Take proof of marriage, if applicable. Similarly, bring documentation that provides proof of any additional dependents. If you served in the military, bring your separation documents. Years of service can often positively affect your benefit payments. After the disability case manager has confirmed your personal details, he will move on to the details of your case. Make sure you bring copies of your medical records and treatments for your current injury. Provide contact information for all your treating physicians. Finally, provide supporting documentation and details about your employment for at least the past decade. Of particular interest will be wages and average number of weekly work hours. Assure you consult with your social security attorney, if applicable, before you go to that first meeting with Social Security. If you do not plan to hire a social security attorney, then just make sure you have all the supporting documentation necessary to complete that initial interview. You can increase the likelihood that your case will be processed in a timely manner, if you make sure you have provided all the necessary information.

Q: What is the next step, if you are not approved for disability benefits through social security?

A: If your application was denied after the initial review process, you should plan to file for a reconsideration. You will need to file to have your claim reconsidered within 2 months of when your initial claim was denied. By failing to meet that deadline, you will probably have to file a brand new claim and start all over. Although it is not required that you have a social security attorney, it may be wise to seek the counsel of one now. Most claims for [social security disability](#) benefits are not awarded until after the next step, which is a hearing. The services of a social security attorney can be extremely beneficial during preparation for and the actual hearing. A claim must first be reconsidered before an appeal for a hearing is made.

Q: What is the biggest mistake made when a claimant is denied social security disability benefits and files an appeal?

A: The major snare for disability benefits appeals is to miss deadlines. All forms to have a case reconsidered must be received no later than 2 months after the initial claim was denied. If you have any concerns about deadlines or necessary forms for an appeal, you may want to consider contacting a social security attorney.

About the Author

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