

Should You Get a Different Social Security Lawyer If You Are Not Happy with Yours?

Q: If you are unhappy with your current social security lawyer, should you get a new one?

A: Anyone who feels like the social security lawyer he hired is not supportive or unresponsive is allowed to seek out another lawyer. A claimant is allowed to change lawyers, regardless of what stage his claim is in. It will not hurt your chances of being approved for benefits, assuming you do not miss any deadlines, appointments or hearings while you search for a new lawyer. A smart first step, however, is to communicate your concerns to your social security lawyer to see if anything can be done to improve your relationship. For example, your lawyer may not know that you are not feeling supported and can then step up the number of meetings or calls to inform you of the status of your case. Most attorneys would want to know if their clients are unsatisfied and be given a chance to fix the situation. A client who is afraid to communicate concerns to his current social security lawyer should contact another representative from the firm and explain the situation and the need to find a new lawyer. Make sure that you do not wait long to hire a new attorney, if you choose to do so. Contact your claims examiner and assure that you are not in jeopardy of missing a deadline, hearing or mandatory meeting. Your new social security lawyer will do the same once he or she is hired.

Q: How often should you speak with your social security lawyer?

A: A social security lawyer can only fairly represent you if he has all the pertinent information that might affect your case. Your lawyer should have all the background information that you have. If you recently had an appointment with your doctor, your attorney should have copies of those records. Your attorney needs to know if there is a change in your injury or the outlook for recovery predicted by your doctor. If you move, make sure your lawyer had your new contact information. Always keep your social security lawyer informed.

Q: What should you do if you owe money to banks and other institutions and are awaiting a decision on your disability claim?

A: You should let any banks or institutions to which you owe money know that you applied for social security disability. Although they are not required to suspend collections action, there is a possibility that some may do so. Contacting them is not a guarantee that collections will be suspended, but you always want to leave that option open. If you are seriously concerned about issues with your creditors, it is wise to contact a social security lawyer (if you do not already have one) for advice and help drafting any documentation.

About the Author

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