

Three Important Facets of a Supporting Letter from Your Doctor Regarding Your Social Security Benefits Application

Q: When filing for social security disability, what should you do to increase the likelihood that your application will be approved?

A: The majority of social security benefits claims are denied when they go through the first phase of the disability application cycle, but you can assure that you give your claim the fairest chance possible. Having a doctor who supports your decision to file for disability is integral to helping your case. The statement from your physician regarding how your condition affects your ability to work is extremely important. One of the big causes of delays for a decision on a case is incomplete or lack of medical information. Assure that you have submitted thorough and current copies of all your medical data. Do so again when having your case reconsidered or requesting to have it heard before an administrative judge. Always be cordial and polite when dealing with Social Security. No one is trying to find a way to deny you social security benefits. By being as cooperative and available as you can, it makes it easier for them to fairly process your case. The fourth way to help your claim is to always meet required deadlines. Make sure you keep track of where your claim is in the social security benefits process and understand the required paperwork and deadlines. Some claimants are overwhelmed when applying for social security benefits. You may wish to enlist the help of a lawyer who specializes in social security claims, if you have any concerns about properly submitting paperwork or staying on top of your claim.

Q: What should the statement from your doctor say when applying for social security disability?

A: The letter your physician provides for your social security benefits file will need several components to solidly support your claim. First, the letter should explain your condition or injury. Next, the letter needs to make clear what your physical restrictions are and how that impacts your employment. Lastly, the statement should provide a prognosis for your specific situation.

Q: What is the difference between appealing and having your social security benefits claim reconsidered?

A: Both are part of the appeals process. If your application was denied and you wish to continue further, your next move is to have your case reconsidered. This must be done within 60 days of when you received notification that your application was denied. If your claim is not awarded benefits after reconsideration, your next step is to request a hearing. A few states are currently testing a process that does not have cases reconsidered, so make sure you know if your state is one of them.

About the Author

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