

Does a Social Security Attorney Help Your Case?

Q: What is the process your SSDI benefits claim will go through when you file for benefits?

A: The first step in the [social security disability](#) process is the initial review. You will have an initial interview either at a social security office or by telephone, if it has not happened yet. The purpose of the interview is to assure that you have submitted all the requisite forms and that your file contains all the necessary details for the initial review. Your file will then be assigned to a disability examiner at your state Social Security DDS office. The disability examiner for your case will obtain your medical records, review your case and meet with a consultative physician to make a determination regarding your case. At this point, you will receive notification about approval or denial for your requested disability benefits. The majority of cases are denied after the initial review process. You can then request a reconsideration for your claim. A disability examiner and consultative physician that only deal with reconsidered files will evaluate your case. Many claimants seek the counsel of a social security attorney at this point in the process. That is because most cases are again denied after being reconsidered. And the next step would be to appeal to have your claim heard before an administrative judge. The hearing is your last chance to have your case considered. For that reason, many people choose to be represented during this phase by a social security attorney. Although a social security attorney is not required for any step in the process, it is extremely beneficial to have the expertise of an attorney during a hearing. The majority of claimants that win approval after having their case heard have had legal representation.

Q: If you have a social security attorney, do you have to do anything to file for disability?

A: If you have hired a social security attorney, he or she will usually submit all the necessary forms after you have submitted your application. You should submit your own application for an initial claim. You will also be required to personally complete information about employment history and your ability to do your usual tasks. Your attorney will assist you and make sure you complete those forms. A social security attorney will keep contact with your claims representative to assure that your file is being adjudicated properly and that no deadlines are missed.

Q: Are you allowed to apply for SSDI via the web?

A: Yes, you can apply online at the official Social Security web site. You can download and complete the initial application, as well as the questionnaire regarding your condition and work history. They also have a "starter kit" to assist you in submitting everything correctly. To start the process, go to <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability>.

About the Author

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