

Will a Social Security Attorney Be Helpful if You Missed Deadline to Appeal?

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

A: The first thing that will happen after you file for social security disability is the scheduling of the initial interview. This interview is the starting point for your case manager to gather pertinent information regarding your injury or condition and your work status. Your social security attorney will make sure you have all the applicable information and documentation for that first meeting with social security. 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. You will have to answer some questions regarding your identity, if you do not currently possess a picture identification card. Provide a certified copy of your birth certificate. Take proof of marriage, if applicable. If you have children, have supporting documents that confirm their status as your dependents. If you served in the military, bring your separation documents. Years of service can often positively affect your benefit payments. Once all the identifying data has been collected, the interviewer will ask you about your work and injury. Be prepared with supporting documentation about your medical condition. 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. Again, if you plan to hire a social security attorney for the application process, it would be wise to meet with him or her prior to the initial interview. Having a social security attorney is not required for any part of the disability application process, but you will want to assure you come prepared to the first meeting. By assuring you have all the required documents, you can decrease the chances that your application will be delayed.

Q: How do you file an appeal if your application for social security disability is denied?

A: The next step after a claim for social security disability benefits is not approved is to make a request for reconsideration. Paperwork for reconsideration must be submitted no later than 60 days after the date of denial for your particular case. 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. It is recommended that you have representation of a social security attorney during the hearing process. 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 biggest mistake is to wait too long to file an appeal. All reconsideration paperwork must be submitted within 60 days of the date of denial of the application. The expertise and experience offered by a social security attorney can be invaluable, if you are confused about appealing your claim.

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