

Things to Consider When Researching a Social Security Attorney

Q: Do you have to have a social security attorney if you want to take the next step after your initial claim for disability insurance was not approved?

A: It is not required that you have an advocate like a social security attorney if you plan to move to the next phase with your claim. That being said, it is after an initial claim is denied that many claimants decide to hire a lawyer. The next step is to file a reconsideration. Most cases are still not approved when reconsidered. The next step would then be to file an appeal to have your claim heard before an administrative judge. You want to give your claim the strongest chance at winning that you can when it is presented to a judge. That is the reason most claimants choose to hire a social security attorney once their initial claim is denied. Again, it is not required that you have an attorney to undergo a hearing. The majority of cases that are awarded benefits after this stage, however, are represented by a legal advocate.

Q: If you would like to hire a social security attorney, what things do you need to know?

A: A lawyer recommendation from an individual who recently went through the disability claims process can be very helpful. Doing some research online can be helpful, if you do not have any word of mouth references. Having a few points to discuss with a potential lawyer you plan to meet with will be extremely helpful. First, find out what percentage of cases the lawyer handles are disability cases. You would like someone who focuses on disability issues frequently. Make sure you send your file and medical records ahead of time, so the lawyer can review them before your initial meeting. Ask the candidate to explain how the disability process works. Then get specifics on the issues the lawyer sees with your particular case. It is generally not helpful to ask how many cases an attorney has won. Every disability case is different. It is more helpful to hire a social security attorney that has a lot of disability expertise and who has taken the time to know your particular issues.

Q: If your initial claim was denied, should you apply again?

A: If your application was not approved after the initial review process, do not submit a brand new application. Instead, you will want to submit an appeal to have your case reconsidered. You must submit your appeal within 60 days of the date when your initial application was denied. If your case is not approved after reconsideration, you will then move on to the hearing phase. You will only add more time to your process, if you begin at square one again and submit a new application in lieu of filing for reconsideration.

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