

Can a Social Security Lawyer Help with an SSD Appeal?

Q: Are SSDI and SSI benefits the same thing?

A: SSI (Supplemental Security Income) and SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance) are two different benefit programs that are offered to individuals who qualify as disabled. Those who have contributed to social security during their work history and have accumulated enough credits, are eligible for SSDI. How long you have been employed, your income record and accumulated work credits are all factored into your qualification to receive SSDI benefits. While in the workforce, an individual earns one work credit for every calendar quarter. An individual can generally qualify for SSDI if he has worked the calendar equivalent of 5 years out of the last 10. Eligibility for SSI benefits, however, are dependent upon the financial needs of an individual. SSI is not dependent upon prior work contributions and credit. SSI is awarded to those who make less than about \$1400 monthly in income. An individual must report all wages, resources and income when applying for SSI. It would be wise to seek the advice of a social security lawyer, if you are confused about your eligibility for Social Security Disability Insurance versus Supplemental Security Income benefits.

Q: Do you need a social security lawyer if you plan to appeal your Social Security disability claim?

A: You do not need to have a social security lawyer in order to appeal your claim. But, claimants are often advised to hire a social security lawyer for the appeals process. You will need to file for reconsideration first. Most cases that have been reconsidered are not approved. The next step after reconsideration is to request a hearing for your case. It is strongly recommended that you have a social security lawyer for the hearing process. Your case has a better chance of being approved after a hearing, if you have the services of an attorney. A social security lawyer will also know how to properly file paperwork within deadlines and assure that your case is adjudicated properly. Additionally, a lawyer can help establish the best date of onset for your condition and file for any back pay benefits.

Q: Do I let my lawyer complete and submit all forms for social security disability benefits?

A: If you have hired the services of a social security lawyer, he will assure that your paperwork has been filed correctly and within the required deadlines. Knowing that, it is also important for you to be in the loop about all forms and deadlines. You should communicate with your lawyer frequently. Your lawyer will assist you, but there are some things that should be completed by you. The application for disability benefits and anything that involves your employment history, for example, can be filled out by you.

About the Author

For more info on social security disability attorney, click www.HillAndPonton.com.

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