

## When Should You Hire a Social Security Attorney?

Q: What are the steps your file goes through after you submit an application for social security disability benefits?

A: Your file will be initially reviewed after you apply for disability benefits. If you have not already had an interview via phone or in person with a social security representative, you will be contacted. 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. The disability determination services agency for your state will then receive your claim and a case manager will be assigned to it. 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. Most claims are not approved when initially reviewed. If you wish to continue, you may appeal and have your case reconsidered. 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. This is due to the fact that the majority of claims are not approved during reconsideration. 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: A social security attorney typically handles all the paperwork after you have applied for benefits. You should submit your own application for an initial claim. You will normally also need to fill out forms regarding your work history and how your condition has affected your ability to work. Most lawyers make sure their clients have completed all those required items. Your social security attorney will also follow up with Social Security to make sure everything has been submitted correctly and on time.

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. Visit <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline> to find out more.

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## About the Author

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