

Back Pay for Social Security Disability Benefits

Q: Does everyone who files a social security disability claim have to do another medical examination?

A: Not everyone who applies for social security disability benefits has to undergo a consultative exam (CE.) There are usually two reasons for an exam. If there is not enough information provided by medical files to allow the disability case manager to make a decision on an application, then an exam will be needed. If the medical records of a claimant are not current, then a recent examination will be needed to provide an updated record of the injury or condition. If a CE is required for your claim, try not to worry. Make sure you attend the examination, as it is necessary in order to make a decision on your case. If you cannot attend the scheduled examination, contact your social security disability examiner and reschedule. You will not have to cover the cost of the CE.

Q: Will my doctor conduct a requested consultative examination?

A: The disability manager for your case will typically not request that your physician conduct the CE. The examination is normally conducted by a physician who has not treated you for the current injury or condition. If you have any concerns regarding the particular physician scheduled to provide your exam, you can contact your social security disability examiner. If that doctor provided an exam for a previous case of yours that was not approved, for instance, you can request a different physician. The physicians who provide CEs for social security disability claims are not Social Security doctors. The physicians who conduct the exams are independent physicians that have a contract to provide such services to the agency.

Q: Is it possible to get retroactive benefit payments for social security disability?

A: A fair number of applicants approved for social security disability benefits receive back payments. The approval process for cases can take months or years, which means that most claimants are awarded retroactive payments for benefits. Applicants can accrue benefits retroactively from the date of application and, in some cases, up to a year prior. The 5 month waiting period after the date of onset will not be included in back pay.

About the Author

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