

Can A Social Security Lawyer Help With a Missed Hearing?

Q: Will hiring a social security lawyer decrease the chances that my disability claim will be denied?

A: Having a social security lawyer on your side does not assure that you will be awarded social security disability benefits. A social security lawyer, however, can assure that your claim will be correctly filed. A fair number of applications for disability benefits are denied during the initial review process and when reconsidered. You should file an appeal, if your case is not approved. Hiring a social security lawyer to help your case through the appeal and hearing processes is advisable. An experienced lawyer knows the appeals process well and brings expertise that will be invaluable during an appeal. If you are awarded benefits after the hearing process, your social security lawyer will walk you through applying for retroactive benefit payments and assure the correct onset date is established. You can certainly choose to represent your claim yourself. But many claimants are not willing to take a chance and prefer to have an advocate on their side through the hearing process.

Q: If you were absent from the scheduled hearing for a disability appeal, will you be denied benefits?

A: Being absent from a scheduled hearing is not recommended. If you were unable to attend the hearing for a good reason, it is likely that another hearing date can be scheduled. Legitimate reasons are those that were not expected and emergencies. Some common emergencies include illness, family circumstances, medical circumstances and transportation issues. If you did not know you had a hearing because you did not receive notification, contact your claim representative immediately. Make sure that all representatives handling your case have your address and phone number during all reviewing processes. An advocate like a social security lawyer will make sure that you do not miss notifications, issues with your claim or a hearing date. The Social Security Administration sends notification to both the claimant and his attorney. If you knew about your scheduled hearing and missed it on purpose, your claim is in jeopardy of being dismissed. You will then have to reapply for disability, if that occurs. If you do not yet have a social security lawyer, it would be wise to hire one to help you through rescheduling and the subsequent hearing.

Q: Are SSDI and SSI the same thing?

A: Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income are two different programs. Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) is an earned benefit. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is based on financial need. SSI is not based on work history. See here also [Attorneys for social security disability](#) -- [Veterans lawyers](#) --

About the Author

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