

If your application for social security benefits has just been denied, should you hire 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. A fair number of people who wish to appeal their cases, however, obtain the services of an attorney at this point. Submitting an appeal to have your claim reconsidered is your next course of action. The majority of claimants are denied again after reconsideration. After the reconsideration phase, the hearing phase is the last step. You want to give your claim the strongest chance at winning that you can when it is presented to a judge. Having a social security attorney on your side after your application is initially not approved can help you give your case the best chance possible. 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: If you know someone who was happy with an attorney they hired for a disability case, this is the best place to start. If you do not know of any recommendations, hop online and see if you can find any reviews for an attorney who handles your type of claims. 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. Assure that the attorney has copies of your application, denial notification and health records so he can be well versed on your case when you sit down to meet for the first time. Discuss the steps that will be involved with a claim. Then get specifics on the issues the lawyer sees with your particular case. Do not ask the ratio of wins to losses. Every disability case is different. You want to, instead, focus on finding a social security attorney that understands the disability process and the specifics of your case.

Q: Is it wise to submit a new application if you were not approved for disability insurance?

A: If your application was not approved after the initial review process, do not submit a brand new application. Your next step is to file for reconsideration. The deadline to file for reconsideration is no later than sixty days after you received notification that your claim was not approved for benefits. If your case is not approved after reconsideration, you will then move on to the hearing phase. By applying all over again, instead of appealing, you will significantly delay your opportunity to have your case reconsidered or heard before a judge.

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About the Author

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