

Are All Social Security Benefits Claims Denied the First Time?

Q: When applying for social security benefits, how important is it that your doctor support your claim?

A: You need a physician who is supportive of your decision to file for disability. He or she will be asked to write a statement that explains your injury, your prognosis and your resulting employment outlook. The disability examiner will be influenced heavily by the supporting materials from your doctor. In addition, a physician who supports the decision to file for disability will usually help assure all medical history documentation is submitted quickly. It is vital that you seek out a new physician, if your current one does not believe you should be applying for social security benefits. If your doctor becomes unresponsive after you have already submitted your application, find a new one. It will be worth the time you will have to invest to find a new one. It can mean the difference between winning and losing your case. You will have an extremely difficult time being awarded social security benefits without the support of a doctor.

Q: If you are applying for social security benefits and you miss a deadline or fail to reply to a mailed notice, should you be concerned?

A: Not responding to letters or notifications can absolutely have a negative impact on your claim. A claimant who has filed for social security benefits should be sure to immediately open any notices he receives from Social Security. For example, if you fail to open a hearing notice, you will miss your hearing date. Missing a court date can put your claim in jeopardy. Another example would be not opening a request for a medical examination. Just like not appearing for a hearing, ignoring a consultative exam letter will only stall the review of your social security benefits claim and may even mean you lose your case. Act and reply in a timely manner whenever you are sent anything from Social Security. And be mindful of all deadline for appeals, as well.

Q: Does Social Security deny every claim when it is initially reviewed?

A: Social Security absolutely does not simply deny every disability claim they initially review. It is true that a large percentage are not awarded benefits after the initial review. The reasons for this can vary. Some claimants do not apply correctly or do not have supporting documentation to bolster their cases. Others apply over and over again, instead of filing an appeal. Social Security does approve some claims after they are initially reviewed. The statistics go up after the hearing process, when more claimants are awarded benefits. If you have any concerns about providing supporting documentation for your application or meeting deadlines, you may wish to contact a social security attorney.

About the Author

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