

Appeal After Claim Denied Social Security Benefits

Q: When filing for social security disability, what should you do to increase the likelihood that your application will be approved?

A: Although most disability applications for social security benefits are not approved after the initial review process, there are definitely some things you can do to make sure you give your case the best foundation. Having a doctor who supports your decision to file for disability is integral to helping your case. The disability examiner for your case places a lot of value on the statement provided by your doctor. One of the big causes of delays for a decision on a case is incomplete or lack of medical information. Assure that you have submitted thorough and current copies of all your medical data. Do so again when having your case reconsidered or requesting to have it heard before an administrative judge. Always be cordial and polite when dealing with Social Security. The representatives want to reach a social security benefits decision as quickly as possible, so are not working against you. By being as cooperative and available as you can, it makes it easier for them to fairly process your case. Another factor to give your case the best chance is to not miss a deadline. Make sure you keep track of where your claim is in the social security benefits process and understand the required paperwork and deadlines. Many people find the claims process for social security benefits confusing and daunting. If you fear you cannot properly apply or respond to requests, you would be wise to consider hiring a [social security attorney](#).

Q: How do you make sure your doctor has provided all the required information in his letter?

A: The letter your physician provides for your social security benefits file will need several components to solidly support your claim. First, the letter should explain your condition or injury. Secondly, your physician should explain how your condition affects your activity and ability to work. Lastly, the statement should provide a prognosis for your specific situation.

Q: Are reconsideration and appeal the same thing in the social security benefits process?

A: Reconsideration and hearing are two different steps in appealing your claim. The first step if your claim was not approved after the initial review process is to file for reconsideration. Paperwork for reconsideration has to be filed no later than sixty days after your claim denial. Your next course of action if your case is reconsidered and denied is to file a request to have it heard before an administrative judge. A few states are currently testing a process that does not have cases reconsidered, so make sure you know if your state is one of them.

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