

If Your Case is Denied After Reconsideration, Do You Need a Social Security Attorney?

Q: What happens at the first interview after you apply for disability through social security?

A: The first thing that will happen after you file for social security disability is the scheduling of the initial interview. The purpose of the interview is to provide the disability examiner assigned to your case with the basic background about your case and you. If you have a social security attorney, he or she will help you prepare for that interview. You may not plan to hire a social security attorney, in which case you should get organized and assure that you arrive at that interview with all the necessary items. Bring a picture ID. You will have to answer some questions regarding your identity, if you do not currently possess a picture identification card. Make sure you have a certified proof of birth document. Take proof of marriage, if applicable. If you have children, have supporting documents that confirm their status as your dependents. If you served in the military, bring your separation documents. Sometimes, your time in the military can increase the amount of benefits. Once all the identifying data has been collected, the interviewer will ask you about your work and injury. Make sure you bring copies of your medical records and treatments for your current injury. Provide contact information for all your treating physicians. Lastly, come prepared with background on the past 15 years of your work history. Hours worked and salary should be included. Assure you consult with your social security attorney, if applicable, before you go to that first meeting with Social Security. If you do not plan to hire a social security attorney, then just make sure you have all the supporting documentation necessary to complete that initial interview. You can increase the likelihood that your case will be processed in a timely manner, if you make sure you have provided all the necessary information.

Q: How do you file an appeal if your application for social security disability is denied?

A: The next step after a claim for social security disability benefits is not approved is to make a request for reconsideration. Paperwork for reconsideration must be submitted no later than 60 days after the date of denial for your particular case. If you do not file within that timeframe, you will likely have to begin the application process from step one again. Although it is not required that you have a [social security attorney](#), it may be wise to seek the counsel of one now. The majority of cases will not be approved after reconsideration and claimants will then request a hearing. The services of a social security attorney can be extremely beneficial during preparation for and the actual hearing. A request for hearing cannot be made until a case is denied after reconsideration.

Q: What is the major pitfall when filing an appeal for a disability claim?

A: The biggest mistake is to wait too long to file an appeal. All reconsideration paperwork must be submitted within 60 days of the date of denial of the application. The expertise and experience offered by a social security attorney can be invaluable, if you are confused about appealing your claim.

About the Author

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