

## Can a Social Security Attorney File for Reconsideration?

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

A: Your disability application interview will be set up shortly after you submit your application for social security disability. The purpose of the interview is to provide the disability examiner assigned to your case with the basic background about your case and you. Your social security attorney will make sure you have all the applicable information and documentation for that first meeting with social security. 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. If you do not have a photo ID, you will be asked a series of questions to confirm who you are. Provide a certified copy of your birth certificate. Take proof of marriage, if applicable. Similarly, bring documentation that provides proof of any additional dependents. If you served in the military, bring your separation documents. Sometimes, your time in the military can increase the amount of benefits. After the disability case manager has confirmed your personal details, he will move on to the details of your case. 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. Again, if you plan to hire a social security attorney for the application process, it would be wise to meet with him or her prior to the initial interview. Having a social security attorney is not required for any part of the disability application process, but you will want to assure you come prepared to the first meeting. By assuring you have all the required documents, you can decrease the chances that your application will be delayed.

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. You do not necessarily need a social security attorney, but having such an advocate can be helpful during reconsideration. 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 biggest mistake made when a claimant is denied social security disability benefits and files an appeal?

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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