

Does Every Applicant Need a Social Security Attorney?

Q: How long do you have to be out of work before you can apply for [social security disability](#) benefits?

A: It is the most advantageous to apply for benefits as soon as possible after the onset of your condition. Should your application receive approval, you cannot actually collect your first payment until you are into the sixth month of your injury (social security will determine an "onset" date for your injury). The onset date is the first day you were unable to work due to your condition. But the review process for an application takes an average of at least 90 days. If you delay submitting your application, you add more time to how long you have to wait to receive your benefits even though you may be eligible. You will be able to receive retroactive benefits, even if you wait to apply. The eligibility waiting period will not be included in those retroactive benefits payments. Delaying the application simply means that you wait longer for your benefits to begin. If you are confused about when or how to apply for disability insurance, it may be beneficial to speak with a social security attorney.

Q: Can you receive Medicaid and social security disability?

A: A person who is approved for social security disability insurance (SSDI) is eligible for Medicare. Medicare cannot begin until 2 years have past since the onset date of the injury, in addition to the required waiting period (5 months) an individual had to wait to begin receiving SSDI benefits. An individual who receives SSI benefits is eligible to apply for Medicaid. For individuals who receive concurrent benefits from SSDI and SSI for a time, the line between eligibility for Medicaid versus Medicare can get blurry. An individual in this situation should call the social security claims manager for his particular case to determine eligibility for Medicaid and Medicare. A social security attorney can be helpful, if you are having any difficulty understanding why you are eligible for certain benefits and not others or do not know how to apply for benefits.

Q: Do you need a social security attorney if you plan to appeal your claim?

A: You do not need a social security attorney to apply for disability insurance, have your case reconsidered or appeal for a hearing. That being said, if your claim is not approved after the initial review process, it would be wise to obtain legal representation if you plan to appeal. A fair number of claims that are filed for reconsideration are not approved and must be appealed to go before a hearing. Most cases that are approved after they are heard before a judge are represented by a social security attorney. The knowledge and expertise a social security attorney can bring to the hearing process can be invaluable.

About the Author

More references about [social security disability attorney](#), click to www.HillandPonton.com.

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