

## Should You Be Concerned If Claims Representative Will Only Give Information to Social Security Lawyer?

Q: If you become employed part time, do Supplemental Security Income payments continue?

A: Supplemental Security Income benefits are based on financial need. Your SSI payments could stop or simply be decreased, once you have employment income again. If your earnings are equal to or exceed the income threshold set by Social Security, your SSI payments may end. The pretax monthly limit this past year was set at just below \$1000. Make sure you keep Social Security informed of all changes in your work income. You will have to pay back any over payments from Social Security. It is important to note, however, that Social Security wants to help you return to work. Purposefully keeping your hours low for the sole purpose of continuing SSI benefits can be considered fraudulent. If you have any reservations about returning to work because of loss of SSI benefits, you may wish to contact a social security lawyer.

Q: Should you be concerned if Social Security prefers to communicate with your social security lawyer instead of you?

A: Once representation is hired, Social Security prefers to handle all transactions regarding your case via your social security lawyer. You should not be concerned if this is the case. The [social security lawyer](#) you hired is your advocate and works only on your behalf. Communicating with both you and your social security lawyer can result in miscommunication. You and your attorney are a team. You should be in frequent contact with your social security lawyer regarding your case. You employed your attorney for that reason.

Q: Are veterans who receive compensation through the VA also eligible for disability insurance through Social Security?

A: Yes, a veteran can receive disability benefits through both the VA and Social Security. If a veteran was injured on or after October 2001, he can have his claim go through an accelerated review process with Social Security. Although the accelerated process should happen without any added paperwork, it is wise to make sure your case manager knows you expect it. If you have hired representation, your social security lawyer will know to make sure your case is expedited.

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## About the Author

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