

What Things Should You Ask a Social Security Attorney You Are Considering Hiring?

Q: If your application for [social security benefits](#) has just been denied, should you hire a social security attorney?

A: If you were denied benefits after you applied for disability, you do not need to hire a social security attorney to appeal. A fair number of people who wish to appeal their cases, however, obtain the services of an attorney at this point. The next step is to file a reconsideration. Most cases are still not approved when reconsidered. After the reconsideration phase, the hearing phase is the last step. You want to give your claim the strongest chance at winning that you can when it is presented to a judge. Having a social security attorney on your side after your application is initially not approved can help you give your case the best chance possible. Again, it is not required that you have an attorney to undergo a hearing. The majority of cases that are awarded benefits after this stage, however, are represented by a legal advocate.

Q: How do you find a good social security attorney?

A: A lawyer recommendation from an individual who recently went through the disability claims process can be very helpful. If you do not know of any recommendations, hop online and see if you can find any reviews for an attorney who handles your type of claims. Once you find some attorneys, make a list of basic questions you plan to ask any candidates. First, find out what percentage of cases the lawyer handles are disability cases. You would like someone who focuses on disability issues frequently. Assure that the attorney has copies of your application, denial notification and health records so he can be well versed on your case when you sit down to meet for the first time. Ask the candidate to explain how the disability process works. Then get specifics on the issues the lawyer sees with your particular case. It is generally not helpful to ask how many cases an attorney has won. Every disability case is different. You want to, instead, focus on finding a social security attorney that understands the disability process and the specifics of your case.

Q: If your initial claim was denied, should you apply again?

A: It is generally not a good idea to simply apply again after you were initially denied. Your next step is to file for reconsideration. You must submit your appeal within 60 days of the date when your initial application was denied. Appealing to have your case heard before an administrative judge is your next step, if your claim is reconsidered and still not approved. By applying all over again, instead of appealing, you will significantly delay your opportunity to have your case reconsidered or heard before a judge.

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About the Author

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