

## Are the Services of a Social Security Attorney Required?

Q: When should you submit your application for disability insurance?

A: You should submit an application for disability benefits as soon as you become injured. If you are approved, you are not eligible to receive benefits until after a 5 month waiting period from the established date of onset of your condition. 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. So, if you wait to apply, you can expect delays in receiving your first payment. You will be able to receive retroactive benefits, even if you wait to apply. No one can receive benefits for the 5 month waiting period. But the longer you wait to apply, the longer you wait for your first check. A social security attorney can be an invaluable source, if you are having difficulty applying for disability benefits.

Q: Can you receive Medicaid and [social security disability](#)?

A: If a claimant receives approval for SSDI (disability insurance), he can apply for Medicare. An individual cannot receive Medicare benefits until two years after the date of onset of the condition plus five months (the waiting period mentioned in the previous question). An individual who receives SSI benefits is eligible to apply for Medicaid. The distinction can get a bit confusing for those who may collect both SSI and SSDI for a certain period of time. 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: It is not required that you have a social security attorney for any portion of the application process for disability benefits. If your initial application is denied and you plan to appeal for reconsideration, however, you may wish to hire a lawyer. 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. It is extremely beneficial to have an advocate like a social security attorney on your side, as the hearing is your last chance to present your case.

## About the Author

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