

Social Security Disability Benefits And You

Social Security taxes are typically deducted from you with every paycheck that you receive from your employer. For most people, Social Security is used for the purpose of retirement benefits that they can avail of when they reach the age of retirement. Many people are not aware however that part of the Social Security tax can be used in the form of a disability plan. Federal law states that in the event of an injury or some type of illness or disease that effectively hinders your ability to work, you can claim some Social Security benefits even though you have not reached retirement age yet. These benefits can be used to provide you with an income source in the event that you are not able to work.

Disability is defined by the Social Security Act as the inability to engage in any income generating activity because of a physical or mental condition that can either result in death or will last for a period of not less than 12 months. Many people seem to be confused about when they can apply for Social Security disability benefits and when they can begin collecting payments. What you should realize is that it is important that you file for disability as early as you can, even on the day that you are disabled if possible. The act of processing your claim can take much longer than expected and if you wait too long before doing so, you may miss out on some benefits, as well as run the risk of delaying the process even more. Keep in mind that even with the help of an experienced Social Security lawyer, the claim process can still take a long time. In addition, you will also have to be unable to work for at least 5 full months before you can begin receiving disability benefits.

The question of why the entire claim process takes so long...often lasting more than a year...is one that comes up often. Even with a competent Social Security lawyer on your side, the process can still take an excessively long time. While it is understandably quite frustrating to be out of work and at the same time unable to claim any benefits, the huge backlog of Social Security cases results in this inordinate delay. Since Social Security cases are processed in the order in which they come in, there is little that you can do but wait. In extreme situations, the claims process can take as long as eighteen months and even up to two years.

It is interesting to note that even if a Social Security Disability lawyer cannot help you get a hearing with an administrative law judge sooner, a good one can work wonders for your case even before you get a hearing. A good Social Security Disability lawyer will have enough experience to know what type of evidence to collect as well as how to use any opportunities to your advantage, such as filing the claim with the Office of Disability Determinations or coming up with an On the Record opinion so that a hearing for your case may not even be necessary. In any case, there are a number of obstacles that you have to deal with when filing for Social Security Benefits. With a competent lawyer on your side however, the process can be resolved much sooner than if you take on the task of filing the claim by yourself. More "[title='Social security lawyer florida'>Veterans lawyers](#)
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