

Social Security Lawyer and Hearing Process

Q: If your application for disability is denied, what is the next step? And do you need a social security lawyer?

A: The next step after an initial claim for disability benefits is denied is a reconsideration. It may be wise to seek the counsel of a social security lawyer if you plan to have your claim reconsidered, since many claims must go on to the hearing process. It is very important that you provide all the requisite forms no later than 60 days after the date of your application denial. If you fail to meet that deadline, you will have to submit a new claim and undergo the initial review process once more. A large number of applications are not approved the first time. In fact, most of the disability claims that are awarded are done so after the hearing process. You cannot, however, request a hearing until your claim has been through the reconsideration process. For that reason, make sure that you do not ignore the 60 day time limit to submit the paperwork for your case to be reconsidered. Again, hiring a social security lawyer can assure that all the necessary deadlines are met and paperwork submitted.

Q: Once you have requested a hearing, how much time does it take?

A: The time it can take to schedule a hearing once it has been requested can vary greatly. Sometimes it can take up to two years before you have a date for a hearing. The time it takes to schedule a hearing varies from state to state and is affected by the number of claims that are currently in the hearing process. It is important, therefore, to not add any more time to the wait by submitting your request for a hearing as quickly as possible. If you do not already have a social security lawyer, it would be wise to seek one to represent your case during the hearing. A social security lawyer will make sure that your claim is handled fairly and adjudicated correctly.

Q: Should you be concerned if you have not heard anything after a hearing request has been made on a [social security disability](#) claim?

A: A claimant does not often receive much communication while he is waiting for a hearing to be scheduled. Typically, a claimant will be sent a letter confirming the request for a hearing, another to provide the information about a scheduled hearing and one notifying the claimant of approval or denial once the case has been heard. A list detailing all the information in your case may also be provided somewhere in the hearing process. A social security lawyer is your best advocate if you are having any difficulty with the hearing process.

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