

What you shouldn't believe about SSD

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What you shouldn't believe about SSD

By Lala Balattan

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The Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability programs are the largest of several Federal programs that provide assistance to people with disabilities. American citizens have come to be aware that with the Social Security programs for disability benefits and SSI, security is still there for them, even as they are physically restricted, burdened with an illness and unable to work anymore.

However, the Social Security is not committed to making massive awareness and information regarding such programs as the vast public are continually in ignorance of its procedures, policies and workings. Because of this, several misconceptions and false expectations have been harbored by many who were misinformed of the social security's policy. Alas! Many are greatly disillusioned by the time they have come through handling their own applications for disability / SSI claims.

A foremost example of a misconception is that "the Social Security denies everyone the first time they apply for disability". Arbitrariness is never a method in the Social Security. Disability applications are filed at the Social Security Office and are subject for evaluation. Completed disability applications are sent to a state agency called Disability Determination Services (DDS). At DDS, they are assigned to disability specialists known as Examiners. Examiners are the individuals who make decisions on Social Security cases (at the initial and Reconsideration Levels).

Though not all are denied, it is frustrating to note that after months of waiting, 70% of the population that applied for disability claims are denied!

Another misguided information is that the "Social Security denies you a certain number of times before you are approved and can receive disability benefits" should not be believed. During the long wait for the processing of disability / SSI claims applications, many different factors affect the approval and/or denial of applications. Each case are different among others, thus, reasons for approval and/or denial, whether how many times are not always the same.

Meanwhile, a statement from your physician supporting your case cannot automatically get you approved for benefits. Why, of course! No one who ever passed a disability claim application at the

What you shouldn't believe about SSD

SSA with or without the supporting statements of a physician have ever been automatically approved. Your physician's medical report on your disability will have to go through inspection of the DDS and eventually, if continually denied, into the judgment of the Administrative Law Judge to weigh the facts presented if you are really entitled to the benefits.

What others are claiming that "certain conditions, disabilities, or medical health problems can get you automatically approved for benefits", is not even close to the truth. While certain conditions, disabilities or medical health problems do get the claimant involved approved for benefits, the SSA procedures entails that no claimant's application be automatically denied and/or approved.

Saying that the best solution upon denial of an application is to file another brand new application in order to plead your case and appeal, is another misguided idea. While it is right to appeal for your

application, it is not a good solution to begin all over again. The only way to continue you claim is to request for reconsideration, and with it, the necessary additions that may strongly support your claim.

Another myth states that you can't be awarded social security disability benefits if you have ever used drugs or alcohol. If that is so, then the state is denying disability benefits to the entire population since at one point in their lives, they certainly may have used drugs or alcohol! This is such an utter mix-up of the law stating that disability benefit shall be denied to those whose impairment was caused by addiction to drugs and alcohol.

There are yet other misguided ideas and information that still burrowed in the minds of citizens, especially those who are aiming to apply for disability claims. Unless a serious information drive campaign be done in order to answer all questions and to banish all myths in the minds of the people, more and more would still cling to farfetched ideas and false hopes in the Social Security Administration's system

How to Make a Better SSI Case

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It is not actually that a person's disability claim is not believable enough or substantial enough that causes denied applications for the Social Security Disability or the Supplemental Security Income benefits. Represented or not, with undisputable medical records or not, seventy percent (70%) of all disability claims are denied at applications. Does this mean that, it really makes no difference whether you present a substantial claim or not? Of course not!

It simply means that you have to possess more analysis and should insist to learn more about the workings, procedures and especially the approval system of the SSD and SSI Programs. By being attuned to their systems and procedures, respecting their authority and cooperating with them, you stand a better chance of presenting a winning SSI case. With or without help from a legal counsel or

What you shouldn't believe about SSD

other representative, your knowledge of the system would sustain your claim.

Dear claimants, it is indeed intolerable to note that the crucial information regarding the SSD/SSI benefits policies and procedures cannot always be had from the actual persons taking the citizen's claims for disability benefits and SSI. Never be disheartened, though! Even if you eventually think that the applications for SSD / SSI might be a secret process fiercely guarded by who knows? Do not fret! We are providing you with very information, tips and advice in order for you to be armed with the right ideas and learn for yourself how you could improved your very own SSI case.

Stand a better chance of having a competent and substantial review of your medical status. Do this by finding out if your personal physician will support your disability case. Once he expresses his support, request for a detailed statement as to the reasons you were disabled and unable to work. It is also essential to continue submitting copies of your medical records, including recent update, when you apply and each time you appeal.

Cooperate fully with the Disability Examiner working on your case. This, you can show by promptly responding to letters and notices and going to medical exams that the DDS have scheduled for you. By being more cooperative with the DDS, you could gain a chance for your case to be qualified with the examiner pleading your case.

Ensure a good relationship with other people working on your case, especially the authorities at the Social Security and others you have enlisted or hired to assist you. Simply by establishing a friendly and courteous relationship with them, would entail them to do more for you.

Always keep tabs on your claim status, either personally or through your counsel. It is never good to let important deadlines lapse on your disability claim. Act out immediately what is to be done if your claim is denied or have been pending for too long. Simply by knowing that you are aware of every step and every proceeding would give you an edge. Strategize on how to properly plead either a request for reconsideration or a appeal for a hearing.

As long as you are patient enough and is willing to invest time and effort, on no time soon, you will be

able to prove that your SSI case stands a good chance and that you are an entitled and worthy beneficiary! Good luck!

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