

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

KNOW YOUR
RIGHTS

CAROSELLI
BEACHLER
&
COLEMAN

CAROSELLI BEACHLER & COLEMAN, LLC

Since 1972, Caroselli Beachler & Coleman, has represented injured people and their families in accident, injury, and death claims, as well as a broad range of social security and employment issues. We serve all communities in Pennsylvania and offer local appointments when needed. Our practice areas include:

- **Asbestos Cancers**
- **Mesothelioma**
- **Workers' Compensation**
- **Auto & Motorcycle Accidents**
- **Defective Products**
- **Medical Malpractice**
- **Social Security Disability**
- **Insurance Bad Faith**
- **Oil and Gas Landowner**

We work on a contingent fee basis; in most cases, there is no fee for lawyers' services unless we recover on behalf of the client

***In some cases, however, certain expenses may apply.**

About Disability Claims

When a Disability claim has been filed on your behalf, a number of events will take place as your case progresses. This pamphlet is designed to answer some of the questions you may have about your case. Each case is different, however, and if you have a question that is not discussed in this pamphlet, do not hesitate to call or write to us at any time.

Q & A: Answers to Commonly Asked Questions

- What is the difference between Social Security Disability (SSD) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?** Both programs have the same disability requirements. However, in addition to meeting the standard for disability, you must have worked and paid into the social security system to be eligible for SSD. SSI, on the other hand, is a needs based program which requires both proof of disability and proof of resources below certain levels.
- How do I apply?** You must contact your local Social Security office in person, by phone, or online to apply for disability benefits. They will take information from you and process your application.
- What happens after I file my application?** Once you apply, a claims representative from the Administration will contact you. They will ask you questions about your health. This person will be the first to decide your case. This is the time to contact our firm. If your claim is denied, you will have 60 days to contact your local Social Security office to request a hearing.
- Is it common to be denied benefits?** It is not uncommon for disability benefits to be denied. It may be necessary for you to request a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge, where you will be given an opportunity to explain your disability in detail with the help of an attorney.
- Where will my hearing be held?** Your hearing will be held in an area near where you live. You may be asked to travel to the nearest Office of Disability Adjudication and Review or another location to attend a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.

About Social Security/SSI Disability Claims

When will my hearing be scheduled?

Because of the volume of claims pending before the Administrative Law Judges, it could take several months for a hearing to be scheduled once it is requested. During this time your attorney will obtain medical records and reports to prepare your file for the hearing.

Who pays for these reports?

Our law firm will pay a reasonable cost for obtaining these medical reports and records. You will be asked to reimburse us for the costs of these documents only if your claim is successful and you are awarded benefits.

What will happen at the hearing?

You will meet with an attorney from our office before your hearing. That attorney will help you understand what information will be asked of you. You will testify under oath about your background, work history, impairments, and daily activities. You will be questioned by your lawyer as well as the Administrative Law Judge.

Will the same lawyer that filed my claim handle my hearing?

Usually, however, due to scheduling conflicts, that is not always possible. Rather than postpone your hearing for when that attorney is available, another attorney from our firm who is familiar with your case will handle your hearing instead.

How long will it take before I get a decision?

It may be several months for the Judge to make a decision and for the Social Security Administration to process your claim and issue a decision.

Q & A Continued

My claim was denied by the Administrative Law Judge; can I appeal? It is possible to appeal a denial from an Administrative Law Judge by filing a request for review with the Appeals Council. We will review your decision and advise you as to whether this can be done. A review by the Appeals Council may take one year or longer.

My claim was approved, how long will it be before I receive benefits? The Social Security Administration must review your file and update your records before sending you your checks. This usually takes 6-8 weeks.

How does my lawyer get paid? The Social Security Administration will withhold 25% but no more than \$6,000.00 of your past due benefits to pay your attorney's fees and will send the check directly to your attorney.

If my claim is denied, do I still owe an attorney's fee? No. You owe us a fee for representing you only if your claim is successful and you are awarded benefits.

Do you handle any other types of cases? Yes. Our firm limits its practice to all types of injury and disability cases including: Workers' Compensation, personal injury, auto accidents, defective products and medical malpractice. No fee is owed if we are not successful in securing benefits for you.

Caroselli Beachler & Coleman, LLC
Practice Areas

Asbestos Cancers
Mesothelioma
Workers' Compensation
Auto & Motorcycle Accidents
Defective Products
Medical Malpractice
Social Security Disability
Insurance Bad Faith
Oil and Gas Landowner

For more information on:

Medical Malpractice
www.pittsburghmedicalmalpractice.com

Asbestos Diseases
www.asbestosdiseasesattorney.com

CAROSELLI
BEACHLER
COLEMAN

Caroselli Beachler & Coleman, LLC
20 Stanwix Street, Suite 700
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4802
Phone 412-391-9860
Toll Free 1-800-222-8816
Fax 412-391-7453

www.cbmclaw.com

