

Social Security Disability Representatives: Who They Are and What They Can Do for You

A [Social Security Disability representative](#) is an individual appointed by a disabled person to help them apply for Social Security Disability benefits or file disability appeals, or simply to represent them in attempting to obtain Social Security disability benefits.

Representatives fall into two classifications:

Attorneys — Attorneys do not need to concentrate their law practice in Social Security law in order to represent claimants, but those who do, like Richard I. Feingold, are likely to provide better representation as they are more familiar with the laws and regulations for winning an award of Social Security disability benefits. An attorney will also have the benefit of having attended law school and having passed the bar examination. They also will have taken classes in gathering and presenting evidence and cross-examining witnesses, and they'll know how to make effective oral and written arguments to a judge. The Social Security Act and regulations require that SSA notify any claimant who is not represented by an attorney, and who receives an adverse determination, about the options for obtaining attorney.

Non-attorneys — Non-attorney Social Security Disability representatives can include friends, family members, representatives from a community organization or someone who has been approved by the SSA for direct payment of fees if they win your claim.

What a Social Security Disability Representative Can Do for You

Hiring a qualified representative can make the process easier and less frustrating when you apply for Social Security Disability benefits. A good representative can also increase your chances of receiving an award of benefits without unnecessary hearings or reconsiderations because they understand what's needed to get your claim approved.

Specifically, your Social Security Disability representative should be able to:

- Answer all your questions regarding Social Security and disability benefits.
- Assist you in filing your initial application
- Assist in completing all necessary paperwork
- Ensure that forms and disability appeals are filed correctly and on time
- Keep you updated as to the progress of your claim
- Contact doctors and medical specialists to obtain medical records and opinions to support your claim
- Represent you at a hearing if one should be necessary
- Help you appeal a hearing denial if you and your attorney have agreed to this

Questions for Your Social Security Disability Representative

When selecting someone to represent you, it's a good idea to interview each potential representative to determine if they are an attorney and whether or not they concentrate their practice in this area of law: . Start with the following questions:

- How long have you been an attorney?
- Have you represented other people with my impairments?
- Are you successful in winning the disability claims of your other clients?
- Will you contact my doctors for their opinions concerning my disability?
- Who will actually be working on my case - the person in your advertisement or someone else?
- Will an attorney be assigned to my case before the hearing or will the hearing be the first chance I have to talk to my attorney?
- Will you help me with forms that I will receive as I go through this process?
- Will you try to get my claim approved without going to a hearing?
- Ask yourself - does my representative seem to care about me and my claim?

The answers to these questions should help you greatly in selecting a quality Social Security Disability representative. You will probably have additional questions of your own, so make sure you get answers to those as well.

Richard I. Feingold is a highly experienced Social Security Disability representative. **If you plan to apply for Social Security Disability benefits, you can receive a [Free Consultation](#) from our office.** Simply complete our [online form](#) or call us directly at (773) 989-9899. **Or call toll free at (888)701-8222.**

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