

Bipolar & Benefits from Social Security

For individuals suffering from bipolar, benefits may be available from Social Security's disability programs to help with the financial challenges that often accompany a bipolar disability.

Sufferers of bipolar disorder often have difficulty holding onto a job because of this difficult-to-manage condition. Applying for disability benefits from Social Security can help alleviate income needs for individuals whose bipolar disorder prevents them from working.

Both Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) may be available if the bipolar sufferer has worked in the past but is unable to work now and has limited income and resources.

Proving Bipolar for a Benefits Determination

Proving a bipolar disability under the Social Security Administration (SSA) rules can be challenging, but it can be done. While the SSA does recognize that bipolar disorder and other mental impairments can be severe enough to prevent a person from working and holding a job, the criteria for eligibility is very specific.

When applying for disability benefits for a bipolar disability, the claimant must be able to show that he or she has had a history of episodic periods that manifest both manic and depressive syndromes of bipolar. Benefits will be awarded based upon the affective disorders listing if it can be shown that the claimant's manic and depressive episodes result in sufficient restrictions in:

- Activities of daily living
- Maintaining social functioning
- Maintaining concentration, persistence or pace
- Repeated episodes of decompensation, each of extended increasing in duration

Documenting Symptoms and Medical Evidence

The most important evidence for a bipolar disability will come from medical files and reports from medical professionals. If applying for disability benefits, a bipolar sufferer should see their psychiatrist or counselor regularly and report the symptoms they've experience since the previous visit. It is important that the bipolar patient describe how often episodes occur and how long they last. The psychiatrist or counselor should record this information in the patient's file. This kind of information will demonstrate the severity of the impairment as required to prove bipolar for benefits to be awarded.

Get Better Results with an Experienced Disability Attorney

Proving that a bipolar disability is severe enough to warrant disability benefits can be difficult, especially for individuals who are unfamiliar with the Social Security disability claims process and the criteria necessary for a determination of disability. It is highly advisable to hire an experienced attorney when applying for disability. An experienced

attorney knows what evidence is needed to support a claim for bipolar benefits and prove a disability claim. An attorney can also assist with ordering necessary reports and testing from medical professionals to help support the claim.

The team at Richard I. Feingold & Associates, P.C. is highly experienced in representing individuals with bipolar disability.

If you are considering applying for disability benefits you can receive a [Free Consultation](#) from our office regarding bipolar and benefits from Social Security. 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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