Social Security Disability & Multiple Sclerosis

To receive <u>Social Security Disability for Multiple Sclerosis</u>, the first step is to obtain medical records that will help prove that the claimant has Multiple Sclerosis and that his or her condition has disabled them beyond the ability to work.

To qualify for disability and receive Social Security disability pay, the claimant must prove that the Multiple Sclerosis symptoms he or she suffers from prevent him or her from working and earning a living. While a description of what the claimant experiences is important, **medical records are viewed with more credibility** by the Social Service Administration (SSA) and provide the evidence necessary to win an award of benefits.

When a person files a Social Security Disability claim for Multiple Sclerosis or any other disabling condition, the case is turned over to Disability Determination Services (DDS). DDS is the state agency focused entirely on determining eligibility for government disability programs. As part of their process, DDS often sends out report forms to claimants' doctors to solicit an opinion regarding claimants' disabilities. Doctors do not always complete these reports and do not always complete them in a way that satisfies the SSA's criteria for an award of Social Security disability pay.

For this reason, it's best to hire an experienced Social Security disability lawyer to ensure that you qualify for disability. An experienced attorney can request reports and records from your doctors and help ensure they meet the SSA's criteria.

Qualifying for Social Security Disability with Multiple Sclerosis: Questions to Ask Your Doctor

When applying for Social Security Disability, Multiple Sclerosis symptoms must meet certain requirements. Claimants should get answers to the following questions from their doctor or medical specialist to show that they meet those requirements and qualify for disability benefits.

- Which Multiple Sclerosis signs and symptoms does the claimant demonstrate?
- How severe are these symptoms and how often do they occur?
- How do the symptoms impact the claimant's ability to work, including the ability to concentrate?
- What environmental limitations does the claimant have?
- How do the claimant's environmental limitations impact their ability to work?
- Does the claimant have "significant and persistent disorganization of motor function in two extremities that results in sustained disturbance of gross and dexterous movement or gait and station"?
- To what degree do the claimant's symptoms interfere with locomotion or use of fingers, hands and arms?
- Does the claimant have "significant reproducible fatigue of motor function with substantial muscle weakness on repetitive activity, demonstrated on physical examination, resulting from neurological dysfunction in areas of the central

- nervous system known to be pathologically involved by the Multiple Sclerosis process"?
- Does the claimant complain of fatigue better described as lassitude rather than fatigue of motor function?
- Are claimant's impairments, including emotional impairments, reasonably consistent with the symptoms and functional limitations described?
- Do emotional factors contribute to the severity of the claimant's symptoms and functional limitations?
- What side effects does the claimant experience as a result of medication prescribed for his or her symptoms?
- Is the claimant capable of performing substantial gainful activity with enough regularity and consistency as to maintain employment?

These questions go a long way toward helping your doctor or medical specialist to provide an opinion that addresses SSA criteria for Social Security Disability and Multiple Sclerosis. However, depending on circumstances, there may be many more questions to ask. When applying for Social Security disability pay, it's important to have an experienced attorney to represent you and help you procure the medical information needed for your claim.

The team at Richard I. Feingold & Associates, P.C. is highly experienced in winning Social Security disability pay for individuals with Multiple Sclerosis. If you are trying to qualify for disability benefits you can receive a Free Consultation from our office regarding Social Security Disability and Multiple Sclerosis. Simply complete our online form or call us directly at (773) 989-9899. Or call toll free at (888)701-8222.

More information

More information is available on these pages:

Free Resources on Social Security Disability for Multiple Sclerosis and Other Disabilities

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