

# Social Security Disability Denied for Ankylosing Spondylitis

**If Social Security Disability was denied to you for ankylosing spondylitis, you may be able to appeal the decision and still receive benefits.**

Ankylosing spondylitis is a difficult disability to prove to the Social Security Administration (SSA) because of the strict criteria set forth by Social Security. To apply for benefits for this disease, it's best to have an experienced SSI disability attorney to help you thoroughly document its disabling effects.

If you or a loved one suffers from ankylosing spondylitis, fatigue and pain can make daily functioning at work nearly impossible. Unfortunately, while the SSA does recognize ankylosing spondylitis as a condition that can be disabling, symptoms of pain and fatigue can be difficult to substantiate and prove that they qualify you for benefits.

Since ankylosing spondylitis is on the SSA's Listings of Impairments, most people who apply for benefits don't realize they need to have additional evidence in order to qualify under the Listing and, therefore, get their application for Social Security Disability denied.

## **If Social Security Disability was Denied for Your Ankylosing Spondylitis, You Should Appeal the Decision**

Ankylosing spondylitis can be very debilitating, so if Social Security Disability was denied, you should build a stronger case and appeal the decision. Usually, applicants suffering from ankylosing spondylitis need to obtain additional documentation to prove that they meet the SSA's criteria.

Some of the things you must prove, to qualify according to the SSA's Listings of Impairments, include:

- Medical finding of ankylosing (fixation) of the dorsolumbar or cervical spine at 45 degrees or more flexion from the vertical position; or
- Ankylosis (fixation) of the dorsolumbar or cervical spine at 30° or more of flexion (but less than 45°) measured from the vertical position, and involvement of two or more organs/body systems with one of the organs/body systems involved to at least a moderate level of severity.

If you can prove the existence of one of the above two criteria, through medical documentation that can be presented to Social Security, apply for benefits or appeal the denial because you are probably entitled to benefits.

However, even if you cannot establish one of the above, you may still be entitled to benefits because the Social Security Administration is not permitted to deny benefits just because someone does not meet the Listing criteria. The SSA is required to consider all of your symptoms, including pain and fatigue, and the extent to which they are consistent with objective medical evidence and other evidence. Then the SSA must determine

whether you cannot do your past relevant work, or any other work, given your age, education, past relevant work experience and residual functional capacity.

Establishing impairment through subjective symptoms is challenging and usually requires the help of an experienced SSI disability attorney in order to succeed. An experienced attorney knows what kind of evidence will help prove your case and can help you obtain the evidence. Most people who file a disability claim for ankylosing spondylitis without an attorney's help get their claim for Social Security Disability denied. When it comes to Social Security, apply for benefits or appeal a denial only with the help of a qualified attorney.

The team at Richard I. Feingold & Associates, P.C. is highly experienced in appealing cases when Social Security Disability is denied for ankylosing spondylitis. **You can receive a [Free Consultation](#) with an SSI disability attorney by completing our [online form](#) or by calling us directly at (773) 989-9899. Or call toll free: (888) 701-8222.**

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