

April 2015 Newsletter

How To Apply For Social Security Disability

Some Practical Advice For Your Disability Application



There are three different methods to apply for Social Security Disability: Phone Interview, In Person Interview, and Online Application. Completing an "Interview" means that you have officially filed your initial application for Social Security Disability benefits.

For a phone or in person interview, we recommend calling and scheduling an appointment ahead of time. You can always go to the SSA office and wait in hopes that they will fit you for an appointment, but it's a better use of your time to have one scheduled. Phone interviews can only be scheduled ahead of time.

To schedule a phone or in person appointment, you can call the National SSA office at 1-800-772-1213. Although we cannot file the actual application for our clients, our firm likes to handle the scheduling of an interview for our clients as it oftentimes requires a wait time of 45 minutes or more just to get an agent on the phone. Many firms require their clients to schedule their own appointment in which case we advise you to allow yourself at least an hour to schedule the appointment. Once the appointment is scheduled, an SSA agent will call you around the scheduled time. You should make yourself available an hour before and an hour after the call as they do not always call exactly at the time of the appointment.

An easier option is to fill out an online application if you are applying for regular Social Security Disability. You cannot apply for SSI online. Obviously the advantage of applying online is that you can do it at any time. The disadvantage is that you lose the human element when applying, so whenever possible, we recommend applying over the phone or in person.

Once your appointment is scheduled, it's important to have the following information available during your appointment.

- Date of birth (Social Security may request a copy of your birth certificate)
- Date of onset of your disability
- Names and addresses of your employers during the past two years
- Work history for the past fifteen years (types of jobs held, type of business in which you were employed, salary, hours worked, job duties)
- Whether or not you served in the military
- Current marriage and prior marriage information, including date of birth and Social Security Number of spouse, as well as date and place of marriage and divorce (if applicable)
- Number of spouse, as well as date and place of marriage and divorce (if applicable)
- Names, addresses, and phone numbers of any treating sources (doctors, hospitals, clinics), as well as the first and last date of treatment with each
- Educational history including highest grade completed, year completed, and whether or not you took any special education classes or vocational training

After the appointment is completed, the SSA may send you Release Authorizations to sign as well as several possible forms they may ask you to complete. The forms that may be sent to you are as follows:

- Disability Report: asks about your main impairments, symptoms from those impairments, medical treatment received, and dates of treatment
- Function Report: asks what you are able to do throughout a regular day; how you care for yourself, and what kind of assistance you need with your daily life functions
- Work History Report: asks about the jobs you have held in the past 15 years; how much you sat, stood, and walked with each job; what kind of lifting was involved, and your general responsibilities

It is okay and important to sign the release forms and send them back to the SSA along with any additional information or documents for which they ask. It is also okay and just as important to complete all of the forms they send. You should keep your answers short and to the point, offering information only about that which is asked. It is our firm's practice to review our client's responses and submit them on their behalf. If you have an attorney, ask them to review these forms for you too.

Cure SMA Tennis Tournament!
Making a Difference



We have the honor of being a Silver Sponsor for the Cure SMA Tennis Tournament. This tournament is in memory of Peyton Grace Zimmermann (pictured). Peyton is the daughter of our Law Office Administrator Stacey Zimmermann. Stacey and her husband Mike had their lives struck with tragedy when Peyton passed away 9 months ago due to complications from Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 1 (SMA1).

Since their loss, Stacey and Mike have organized this charity event to raise money for a cure. The exciting thing is researchers are making great headway! There are many drug trials and clinical trials currently underway that are seeing some great results.

Success in finding a cure for SMA will help many other genetic disorders like ALS and many of the diseases that fall under the umbrella of Muscular Dystrophy.

The Cure SMA Tennis Tournament will be held on Saturday May 16 at Sandy Springs Tennis Center. Check in for the event will begin at 2:30. In addition to tennis, players and non-players can enjoy a silent auction, raffle, and dinner. To register or learn more about this event, check out their [website](#) or visit them on [Facebook](#) for a look at silent auction and raffle items.

What is Spinal Muscular Atrophy? (copied from [Cure SMA](#))

SMA Type 1 is a terminal genetic disorder that is considered the #1 genetic killer of children under 2. Due to a mutation in the survival motor neuron gene 1 (SMN1), those affected with SMA are unable to produce a protein that allows the motor neurons to communicate with the muscles resulting in muscle atrophy and often death.

SMA affects approximately 1 in 10,000 babies, and about 1 in every 50 Americans is a genetic carrier. SMA can affect any race or gender. There are four primary types of SMA-I, II, III, and IV-based on age of onset and highest physical milestone achieved. Individuals with SMA have difficulty performing the basic functions of life, like breathing and swallowing. However, SMA does not affect a person's ability to think, learn, and build relationships with others.

April 22: Administrative Professionals Day Thank you to Holly and Brandy!

In honor of Administrative Professionals Day, we want to say thank you and share our appreciation for our current Administrative Assistant Brandy James and our former Administrative Assistant Holly Casey for all their hard work!

Despite a past career as a paralegal, Holly first joined our team almost a year ago as our new administrative assistant, and our clients fell in love with her quickly. As she has become more and more involved in each client's individual case, we decided it was time for her to get back to her paralegal roots. With this transition, we had the wonderful opportunity of welcoming our new administrative assistant, Brandy James. Brandy has a great background in customer service, and we just know that our clients will enjoy her warm and caring personality as they become acquainted with her.

Administrative Announcement: **Our Quarterly Client Satisfaction Survey Results!**



Our quarterly client satisfaction results from our March Survey are in: 96% of our clients would recommend us to a family member or friend who needs help with Social Security Disability.

We appreciate all of our clients who participated in the survey. Thanks to their participation we can better assess if we are meeting our goals of providing the best client experience for people going through the disability process. Look for our next survey in June; we look forward to beating this quarters survey result within the next quarter!

Disability Link Gala

March 2015

Disability Link is a non-profit organization led by and for people with disabilities and promotes choice and full participation in community life. On April 25th, they held the Disability Link Gala that some of our staff had the opportunity to attend. The Gala is a charity event they host in order to raise money for the organization so they can continue to serve and provide opportunities to those people with disabilities. By doing what they do, Disability Link empowers those with disabilities with life skills and the ability and self-determination to succeed at any endeavor they so chose to pursue. We are honored to have been a part of the night!

Calendar of Events

April 2015

April 10th: In Court, Atlanta GA
April 13th: In Court, Atlanta GA
April 25th: Disability Link ADA GALA
April 29th: In Court, Macon GA
April 30th: In Court, Covington GA

Contact

The Khaki Law Firm

*'We help people get through the Social Security
Disability process with personalized legal care.'*

Main Office: 3562 Old Milton Parkway
Alpharetta, GA 30005

By Appointment Only: Buckhead & Marietta

Local (678) 228-8688
Toll Free 1 (866) 394-4925
www.TheKhakiLawFirm.com

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