

What is a Vocational Expert?

And what will he/she be doing at my Social Security Disability Hearing?



The vocational expert (VE) is an expert witness. This person is called by the Social Security Administration (SSA) to testify at a claimant's disability hearing. The VE knows about job availability in the current labor market and the skills needed to perform certain jobs.

The Role of the VE at the Hearing:

Typically the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) will ask the VE for his or her expert opinion about what jobs the claimant can perform given his/her limitations. The testimony of the VE is vital because the opinion of the VE of your ability to work is a good indicator of the outcome of your case. The exception to this is if the claimant's medical condition matches an impairment listing.

Classifying the Work History:

During the hearing, the judge and the claimant's attorney will ask the claimant questions about his or her disability and work history. The relevant work history will include work done for the past fifteen years prior to the onset of the disability. Based upon that information, the VE will classify each of the claimant's relevant jobs to determine if he/she can do the past job or if the claimant has transferable skills to other jobs.

Vocational Expert Discusses If There Are Other Jobs the Claimant Can Do:

Next the ALJ and the claimant's attorney will ask the VE a series of questions based on the claimant's documented limitations. Typically the ALJ will first ask if someone with the claimant's documented impairments could still do the claimant's old job.

If the VE says no, the analysis does not stop there. The next question then is whether or

not there are other jobs that the claimant can perform.

The VE will then testify as to what jobs, if any, could be performed by the claimant based on the functional limitations that are posed. If the VE believes there are jobs that could be performed, it is the VE's responsibility to state the job titles, their codes, and the number of jobs that are in the claimant's area of residence.

Questioning the Vocational Expert:

The hearing is the opportunity for the claimant's attorney to ask the VE follow up questions after the ALJ has finished questioning the VE. The attorney will try to rule out the jobs that the VE stated someone with the claimants limitations could do. The attorney should also present to the VE additional functional limitations that the claimant may have that was left out by the judge. The goal is to try to get the VE to state there are no jobs that the claimant can do.

Overall, it takes experience with disability hearings and knowledge of Social Security law to ask the questions that will successfully rule out all the jobs the VE said you could do. This is one of the many reasons why claimants should not appear at Social Security Disability hearings without legal representation.

Father's Day: June 21, 2015



Happy Father's Day to all the fathers out there! Thank you for all you've done to love and support your family throughout the years.

Administrative Announcements

Client Satisfaction Survey

We love our clients and want to provide the best service possible. In order to do that, we need your feedback. Client Satisfaction Survey's have been emailed. This is the last week to respond. Check your inbox!

Avvo Rating

Congratulations to The Khaki Law Firm! They have been rated 10 out of 10 by [Avvo](#). View our Avvo profile by clicking [here](#)!

Atlanta Bar Association Newest Board Member

Congratulations to Owner and Attorney Sara Khaki for being selected as a Board Member for the Atlanta Bar Association's Women in the Profession Section!

Calendar of Events

June 2015

- June 1st: Court, Gainesville GA
- June 2nd: Court, Savannah GA
- June 4th: Court, Atlanta GA
- June 16th: Court, Columbus GA
- June 21st: Father's Day
- June 25th: Court, Thomasville GA



Contact

The Khaki Law Firm

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

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