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OUR SERVICES

OUR TEAM

RESOURCES

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Will My Disability Be Reviewed After I Have Won My Social Security Claim?:

The Social Security Disability Post-Award Review



Once you have won your Social Security Disability Claim, a question that may come up is "Will Social Security continue to check on my medical condition?" The answer is YES!

The Social Security regulations require the Social Security Administration (SSA) to conduct reviews of claimants' medical conditions periodically to make sure people who are receiving disability benefits continue to be disabled. Depending on the nature of the impairments, Social Security is supposed to conduct these reviews every three to seven years on each case; but in our experience, it does not happen quite that often. Actually, some cases, especially if the claimant is older, never even receive a follow up review. And even the younger claimants with impairments with a good chance for improvement do not always face a review at the three-year mark. This is in large part because how back logged Social Security is with handling claims; which is also the reason why it takes so long for a Social Security Disability claim to get through the process.

However, there are cases where the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) specifically prescribes within his/her written decision for a review to be conducted within a certain amount of months or years after benefits have been awarded. This is usually the case for people with a condition that has great potential to improve. This may be the case for an individual that is diagnosed with a form of cancer that is very curable; or musculoskeletal conditions in younger people that may improve with surgery; or an infant with low birth weight.

So what actually happens if your condition comes up for review? First, Social Security will send you a letter that asks you to go to your Social Security office where you will meet with a SSA disability examiner, who will ask you whether or not your medical condition has improved or not. You should bring with you to the appointment a list of doctors and medical facilities that you have been to since you have been receiving disability; also take with you a list of your current medication; dates of any specific treatments you have had (such as surgeries).

And be ready to answer the question: "Have you attempted to return back to work since you have received disability?" The disability examiner will order your medical records from your doctors offices to evaluate your condition. Here is why our office consistently reminds our clients of continuing medical treatment after they receive their benefits; because if you do not continue to get medical care, SSA assumes that your condition has improved. So if you have not seen any doctors since your disability benefits started, the medical examiner will either assume that your condition has improve, or he/she will send you to a doctor for a one-time exam that SSA will pay for. The doctors who perform these exams do not usually do a thorough job of evaluating your condition and they do not usually offer the most favorable opinions on the claimant's behalf. All this to say, continue to get medical treatment after you receive your disability benefits so that your monthly benefits do not have to rely on the one-time evaluation of a doctor who does not know you and is paid by Social Security to review your health condition.

Once the review is complete, Social Security will either determine that the condition has not improved and disability benefits continue; or SSA may determine that your condition has improved and you may return to the workforce, in that case, you will stop receiving benefits. If SSA does cease your benefits by finding that your condition has improved, you can appeal their decision and ask them to further review your case.



Our April Workshop:

Mental Health Education with Dr. A. Michael Zimmermann PhD

We continue to learn and strive as a team with Khaki University. This month we invited Dr. Michael Zimmermann to come educate our staff about a variety of mental health disorders from which many of our clients suffer.



Dr. Zimmermann recently graduated from the University of Georgia with a PhD in Counseling Psychology. He has a Masters in Clinical Psychology from New Mexico Highlands University. He now works for the United States Army and cares for active duty soldiers, veterans, and dependents. He loves taking care of his soldiers and enjoys educating other professionals in various fields to help them better serve their clients and customers. He's married to our Law Office Administrator Stacey Zimmermann and lives in Augusta, GA.

Our team came away from the session with a wealth of knowledge. If we had more time, we would have kept going! Dr. Zimmermann educated the team on a variety of disorders such as Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder, Anxiety Disorders, and several others. We learned that different life stressors and your capacity for resilience

can trigger an episode; what one person can handle another may not, and that's okay. It was quite the

can trigger an episode, what one person can handle another may not, and that's okay. It was quite the worthwhile education that has helped us to better understand what our clients are going through and better ways of communicating with them. We're so thankful to Dr. Zimmermann for sharing some his knowledge with us.

As we continue our professional development, please let us know if you have any topics you would like for us to cover. Also, stay tuned for an invitation to join one of our Khaki University session as we are now extending invitations to people in our network to join our Khaki University workshops.

An Inspiration Poem For Our Clients for National Poetry Month:

Invictus by William Ernest Henley

This April marks the 20th anniversary of National Poetry Month which was inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in 1996. The poem we have chosen to highlight national poetry month is "Invictus" by William Ernest Henley. I was introduced to this poem earlier this month while I was at a business conference in Florida. What I love about sharing this poem with our clients, who are struggling with poor physical or mental health, is that the author, William Ernest Heneley wrote it during a dark and trying time in his life. He had lost one of his legs due to complications from tuberculosis. Not long after the amputation, the doctors told him he was going to lose his other leg as well. Instead of accepting his fate, he enlisted the help of surgeon Dr. Joseph Lister, who performed several surgeries eventually saving his remaining leg. During his recovery, he was inspired to write the poem "Invictus". The poem truly speaks to the strength of the human spirit and it's ability to overcome any obstacle. I hope this poem inspires our clients to continue to fight for their health the way Mr. Heneley did.

***Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.***

***In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.***

***Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find me, unafraid.***

It matters not how strait the gait,



*It matters not how often the scroll,
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.*

Administrative Announcements

The Khaki Law Firm receives an A+ Rating by BBB:



We're excited to have been recognized by the Better Business Bureau with an A+ rating.

Administrative Professionals Day!

Happy Administrative Professionals Week to all the hard working administrative employees! A special thanks to our own Administrative team Stacey Zimmermann and Amanda Patterson for all your hard work serving our clients and our team.

Calendar of Events:

April 2016

- April 6th: In Court, Atlanta, GA
- April 7th: In Court, Atlanta, GA
- April 11th: In Court, Atlanta, GA
- April 13th: In Court, Covington, GA
- April 14th: In Court, Atlanta, GA
- April 19th: In Court, Covington, GA
- April 20th: In Court, Atlanta, GA
- April 26th: In Court, Atlanta, GA
In Court, Covington, GA
- April 27th: In Court, Atlanta, GA
Administrative Professionals Day
- April 28th: In Court, Atlanta, GA



Contact Us!

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

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