

Important Benefits Questions for a Social Security Lawyer

Q: The SSA says they have paid me more money than they should have. What should I do next?

A: Any social security lawyer will tell you that you have a few different options when you are told that you have been overpaid. Your first option is to ask the SSA for what is called a "reconsideration." This is generally what you should do if you believe that the SSA is incorrect in defining you as overpaid. When requesting a reconsideration, you are essentially asking the SSA to give your file another look. If you meet with them, you may want to take a social security lawyer along, just in case.

If you do not believe that the SSA made a mistake when they calculated your overpayment, you can ask them to waive the overpayment. When you request a payment waiver, you acknowledge that you were given too much money, but would like to be exempt from paying it back. Your social security lawyer will probably suggest this course if the overpayment was due to a mistake made by the SSA.

If, on the other hand, you believe that you were overpaid due to your own mistake, you will probably need to pay the money back. Your social security lawyer or advocate will suggest you talk to Social Security about a payment schedule. This will allow you to repay the money as you are able. Arent sure whether you should request a reconsideration, waiver, or payment schedule? A social security lawyer can help you make the right choice.

Q: As somebody who is legally blind, am I eligible for social security?

A: The SSA defines "legally blind" as vision that cant be corrected to better than 20/200 in at least one eye. And like other disabilities, those who are legally blind may be eligible for social security disability. While you may want to speak with a social security lawyer about your specific case, in general you can look over the guidelines for eligibility under any other disability to determine whether you may be eligible.

In most ways, blindness is treated by the SSA like any disability. But some special benefits are set aside for the legally blind, as this condition is particularly disabling. You should speak to a social security lawyer about any extended benefits you can get for legal blindness.

Q: A friend told me that everybody has to wait until theyve been disabled one year to apply. Do I have to wait?

A: No, this is not true. According to the Social Security Administration, an eligible disability is one that prevents you from making a sufficient income. In the "small print" it goes on to say that your disability either needs to be fatal, or to have lasted or be expected to last one year or more. If you dont speak to a social security lawyer, it can be easy to assume that you have to wait until the year has passed to apply for disability. But a social security lawyer will tell you to apply right away.

About the Author

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