

## **HAVE YOU BEEN DENIED SOCIAL SECURITY OR SSI BENEFITS?**

If you are denied Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) by the Social Security Administration (SSA), it is important that you appeal. **You have only 65 days from the day you were denied to appeal the decision.**

If you are denied, you should call 1-800-772-1213 right away to ask for an appeal. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may call "TTY" number, 1-800-325-0778. OR you can go to your local Social Security office to appeal.

After you call to appeal, Social Security will mail you these forms to complete and return:

- ❑ SSA-561 "Request for Reconsideration"
- ❑ SSA-827 "Authorization to Disclose Information to Social Security"
- ❑ SSA-3441 "Disability Report-Appeal"

It is very important that you complete all of these forms and return them to Social Security as soon as possible so they can process your appeal.

**\*\*If you are having a hard time completing the forms on your own, you can go to your Social Security Office for assistance. A Social Security worker can help you complete the forms.**

➤ Once you have given Social Security all of the necessary paperwork listed above, Social Security will make a new decision your claim and then send you a letter. If the issue is disability, SSA will send your appeal to Disability Determination Services (DDS) in Raleigh, NC. You can call 1-888-422-4394 to check on the status of your reconsideration.

➤ If your Request for Reconsideration is denied again, **you have 65 days to appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.** Again, you can call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to appeal, or you can go to your local Social Security Office. You will need to fill out additional paperwork to complete this next appeal. Again, if you are having difficulty, a Social Security worker can help you complete the forms.

It will can take up to 20 months before you have your ALJ hearing. You should contact a private attorney to assist with your hearing request.

It is important that you appeal your Social Security or SSI denial on time and keep appealing. If you don't, you will have to start the entire process over again and you will lose back benefits. Also, if you receive Medicaid based on a disability, you have to keep appealing your denial for SSD/SSI benefits or you will lose your Medicaid.

<p>Social Security Administration 5800 Executive Center Drive, Suite 300 Charlotte, NC 28212 1-800-772-1213</p>
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**\*\*This general information from Legal Services of Southern Piedmont is not a substitute for individual legal advice. You may wish to talk to another lawyer about your case.**