Turned down for Social Security disability payments?

Here’s how you still may be able to get it.

If you can’t work, don’t give up just because Social Security says you’re not disabled. Ask for an appeal. An appeal is a way to get Social Security to look at the facts again. What if Social Security still says you are not disabled? Appeal again.

Some people who appeal 2 times get their disability! On your 2nd appeal, you get a hearing. The hearing is where you talk to a judge. A lawyer can help you prove you’re disabled and can’t work.

As soon as Social Security turns you down, appeal and get a lawyer.

You have 65 days to appeal. The 65 days start on the date on the letter saying you are turned down. Do you have a good reason why you didn’t appeal within 65 days? Then Social Security may let you appeal after 65 days.

You may be able to get a lawyer for free.

Legal Aid may be able to help. Call us at 1-800-238-1443 as soon as you are turned down. When you call, we will write down your name and phone number. We will call you back within 1 week to find out about your disability. What if you don’t have a phone that belongs to you? When you call, tell us you don’t have a phone. We will try to talk to you right then.

Legal Aid will try to find you a private lawyer. You only pay this lawyer if you get disability.

What if you didn’t appeal but still can’t work?

Then start over and apply for disability again. Make sure your lawyer knows you applied before but missed the deadline to appeal. You might able to use that old application instead of filling out a new one.

Have questions about Social Security or SSI? Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213.

NOTE: This pamphlet cannot take the place of legal advice. Each case is different and needs individual attention.

Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee & the Cumberland

1-800-238-1443 www.las.org