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Affiliated offices in:  
California, Florida, Illinois,  
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# SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY ROADMAP



## ARE YOU ENTITLED TO SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS?



If you are injured or suffer from an illness you may be entitled to receive Social Security Disability Benefits prior to reaching your social security full retirement age. This is in addition to any Workers' Compensation or other benefits you may be entitled to receive. You need to show that you have previously worked in five out of the 10 years prior to becoming disabled and have insured status. (unless you are under the age of 31).

You must also show that you have not worked (or that it is anticipated that you will not be able to work) for at least 12 consecutive months due to your disability.

### Understanding Social Security Disability

**An application for benefits can be filed when you stop working. Your disability can be work-related or non work-related, or a combination of work injuries and other conditions. Disability can be based upon physical or emotional impairments. All injuries, illnesses, conditions, diseases and impairments must be viewed together in determining eligibility for Social Security Disability.**

### RECENT VICTORIES FOR OUR CLIENTS

- Benefits awarded to 47-year-old baggage handler who injured his left knee. We overcame testimony from expert doctor that client could do a desk job when we proved he was required to take medication that would make him too tired.
- 48-year-old operating engineer with Carpal Tunnel Syndrome awarded Social Security Disability Benefits and benefits for his children.
- 55-year-old mechanic with lung disease awarded Social Security Disability Benefits because we proved he cannot be exposed to dust and fumes.
- Benefits awarded to a 53-year-old man out of work for 13 years after we proved he was continuously disabled for 10 years.
- Benefits awarded to 42-year-old office worker with a lifelong genetic condition that causes high fever and nausea only 8-10 days per month, while the rest of the month he suffers no symptoms.
- Benefits awarded to 46-year-old waitress who developed a painful foot condition.
- Benefits awarded to 54-year-old construction worker who injured his back and developed depression following his injury.
- Benefits awarded to 43-year-old woman who suffered lack of concentration and attention, with dizziness following auto accident.

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-  **Pasternack Tilker Ziegler Walsh Stanton & Romano LLP**
-  **WorkersLaw**
-  **Pasternack Tilker Ziegler Walsh Stanton & Romano LLP**

## DID YOU KNOW?

You can receive Social Security Disability Benefits prior to your full retirement age.

Workers who can show they are disabled under the Social Security law may collect full benefits.

You can apply for Social Security Disability Benefits (SSDB) while you collect early retirement benefits.

If you are found disabled under the law, your benefits will be increased to the higher amount.

Your minor and disabled children may also receive additional benefits.

There are time limits for qualifying for Social Security Disability Benefits. You must qualify during the period you are insured for disability benefits as determined by the Social Security Act. If you have already stopped working due to illness or injury, you should consider filing a claim immediately.

We can handle your Social Security Benefits claim from start to finish and will only charge a fee if benefits are collected. Our firm takes care of the initial application, the correspondence with the Social Security Administration and your doctors, filing for reconsideration, hearing, and appeals, if necessary.

Contact us: **800.692.3717**

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## QUALIFICATIONS

There are many conditions that qualify a disabled worker for Social Security Disability Benefits. Common cases are neck, back, hip, knee, leg, ankle, arm, hand, elbow, and shoulder injuries.

Serious heart, diabetes, neurological disorders and lung conditions can also serve as the basis for a disability claim. Carpal tunnel syndrome and arthritis are often disabling conditions as well. Emotional disorders such as depression, anxiety, and post traumatic stress disorder can qualify a disabled worker for benefits.

Other disorders, such as Lyme Disease, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy and Fibromyalgia also may provide the basis for filing a claim.

Social Security Disability Benefits have been awarded to people with many different types of conditions. The way a medical condition affects a specific person's ability to work is more important to the determination than the diagnosis.

## STEPS TO TAKE TO MAKE A CLAIM

1. Call our office at the location nearest your home (see back cover), so that we can assist you in filing a Social Security Disability claim.
2. Seek medical treatment for your conditions immediately.
3. Don't speak to anyone else about your claim other than your doctor.
4. Contact our office if you receive correspondence or calls from the Social Security Administration.

## OTHER RIGHTS & REMEDIES

**Social Security Disability can be received at the same time as Workers' Compensation, Long Term Disability, Municipal Disability Retirement Pension or Union Disability Pension, subject to certain ceilings. Medicare coverage is provided to the disabled worker after receiving Social Security Disability for two years. Dependents receive additional benefits on the wage earner's account.**

**It is important to consult with a lawyer at our firm. We are here to help you understand your rights and to assist you in taking all the necessary steps to ensure you receive all the benefits to which you are entitled.**



Your injury or illness need not be job related to get Social Security Disability Benefits. Your disability can be based upon work-related or non work-related conditions. All of your conditions will be considered to determine if you are disabled.