Our office handles Civil Service Disability Pensions from the initial application through redetermination hearings and Article 78 appeals.

Understanding Civil Service Disability Pensions

If you are a civil servant employed by the State of New York, the City of New York, or are employed by a municipality such as a City, County, Town or Village, you are most likely a member of the New York City or New York State and Local Retirement System.
If you have a permanent injury or illness, and are no longer able to perform the duties of your job title, you may be eligible to apply for a Civil Service Disability Pension.

New York City has five separate Systems: Employees’ (NYCERS), Police, Fire, Teachers’ (TRS), and Board of Education (BERS).

The New York State Retirement System (NYSRS) includes: Police & Fire (P&F), Employees (ERS), and Teachers’ (TRS).

It is important to know what system you are a member of, as well as your Tier. This will determine what type of Disability Pension you can apply for and how much the benefit will pay.

Your Tier is determined by the day that you joined or rejoined a Retirement system. An application must be filed with the appropriate Retirement System within that System’s strict time limits. Our law firm is experienced in helping workers sort through the many confusing issues involved with filing and processing these applications.

Types of Civil Service Disability Pension claims

There are many different types of applications. (They fall into two general categories)

Accidents
are generally known as unforeseeable events, not likely to occur while performing your regular duties, such as motor vehicle accidents, slipping on debris, chairs collapsing or assaults.

Incidents
are generally known as exertional-type injuries from events such as lifting, carrying, bending, twisting or repetitive strain type injuries that occur in the normal course of performing your regular duties.

Your years of credit earning service, your tier, and whether you have sustained an accident as opposed to an incident will determine what type of application you should file and what type of benefits you will receive.

Steps to Take To Make an Application

1. Contact our office at the location nearest to your home (see back cover) IMMEDIATELY AFTER SOMETHING HAS OCCURRED, so we can protect your interests and assist you in filing an application.
2. Report the occurrence to your supervisor/employer as soon as possible, but always in writing within 30 days.
3. File a Workers’ Compensation Claim as soon as possible (our office will assist you).
4. Seek medical treatment for your injuries.
5. Where applicable, obtain names of witnesses and the exact location of the occurrence.
6. When notifying your employer, provide exact details of the occurrence.
7. Don’t speak to anyone else about your claim, except your doctor.

Applying for Municipal Disability Pensions

If you have a permanent injury or illness, and are no longer able to perform the duties of your job title, you may be eligible to apply for a Civil Service Disability Pension. New York City has five separate Systems: Employees’ (NYCERS), Police, Fire, Teachers’ (TRS), and Board of Education (BERS). The New York State Retirement System (NYSRS) includes: Police & Fire (P&F), Employees (ERS), and Teachers’ (TRS).

Other Rights and Remedies

In addition to a Disability Pension, you may be entitled to receive Workers’ Compensation Benefits and if your injuries were caused by someone other than your employer or fellow employee you might be able to bring a personal injury lawsuit against the responsible Third Party. If you are unable to return to any other gainful employment, you also may be eligible to receive Social Security Disability benefits.

It is important to consult with a lawyer at our firm concerning your potential claim. We are here to help you understand your rights and to take the necessary steps to insure that you receive all of the benefits you are entitled to receive.

Contact us: 800.692.3717  ■  www.workerslaw.com  ■  contactme@workerslaw.com

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