



The Newsletter for Claimants, Support Persons, and Disability Advocates.

Tips of the Month

🍀 Apply:

Keep getting medical treatment even after you have been diagnosed with severe impairments. If you are not seeing your doctor, SSA may not think your impairments are really as serious as you claim.

🍀 Appeal:

If you need to speak with someone at SSA about your appeal, try asking for a "claims representative."

SSA phones are usually answered by "service representatives" who do not actually work on the SSI/SSDI disability claims.

🍀 Hearing:

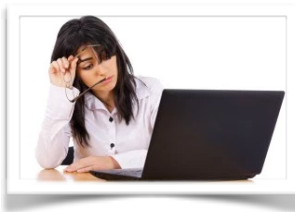
It is a good idea to bring at least one witness with you to your hearing. Your witness can be a friend, spouse, co-worker, or anyone who can describe the daily struggles that you face because of your impairments.

Claim Denied?

SSDI/SSI claim denied? Now what?

You gathered records, filled out the application, and waited for an answer...

Then, you receive a letter from Social Security saying that you have been DENIED benefits because you are NOT too disabled to work?! Now what?



Here are your three options:

1. Do nothing.
2. Reapply for benefits.
3. Appeal the Decision.

1. Do Nothing

This is self-explanatory. If you do nothing, you will not receive benefits. Period. In some cases, waiting too long will even prevent you from being able to attain benefits in the future, as well. "Do nothing" is rarely the best option when applying for Social Security Disability benefits.

2. Reapply for benefits

Many claimants choose to start over with a new application.

Just as most initial applications are denied, there is a very good chance that your NEW application will also be denied. In fact, you very likely WILL be denied, again. However, if your deadline to appeal has passed, you will need to reapply.

Why bother reapplying if you are just going to be denied? Because you will never qualify for benefits if you don't first apply. Once you receive your new letter of denial, it is time to appeal the decision.



**Visit our online
Support Group**

Open to:

- Arkansas SSDI/SSI Claimants
- Friends and Family Members
- other disability advocates

Questions always welcome!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/hardindisability/>

If you have received your denial letter and the deadline to appeal has NOT passed, it is *almost always better to appeal* than to reapply.

3. Appeal the Decision

You only have 60 days to appeal, from the date on your denial letter. Be sure to CHECK THE DATE on your denial letter, and then mark the 60-day deadline on your calendar. Don't waste any time.

The appeals process can be overwhelming and confusing. This is when most claimants hire an attorney to guide them through these next steps and help prove their claim.

If you need to know more about the SSDI/SSI application or appeals process, please do not hesitate to contact our office or visit our website for more information.



Community Resource:

FREE TAX SERVICES in Arkansas

Central Arkansas Development Council (CADC)

is offering free tax preparation assistance at 17 locations in central and south Arkansas and online. Services are available by appointment or on a walk-in basis.

Call [501-326-6203](tel:501-326-6203) for additional information or to make an appointment.

<http://www.arkansasmatters.com/news/news/cadc-providing-free-tax-prep-in-central-south-ar/205655853>

Please note: we have not investigated this resource, are not affiliated with them, and do not necessarily endorse this resource. We are just sharing information that we hope will be helpful to you.

☘ Best wishes for a blessed and lucky March! ☘

*From attorney Deborah L. Hardin
and the rest of your disability team at The Hardin Law Firm, PLC.*

To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, please call: (501) 247-1830 or email: newsletter@thehardinlawfirm.com.

The Hardin Law Firm, PLC, PO Box 5096, Cabot, AR 72023