

9 Costly Mistakes To Avoid When Selecting A Social Security Disability Lawyer

by
Bard Brian
West Kentucky's Disability Lawyer

MISTAKE #1: Choosing a lawyer who doesn't have enough experience. The most important factor in choosing a Social Security Disability lawyer is the depth of his knowledge, skill, judgment and experience handling disability claims. This includes (1) experience preparing the application, (2) experience at hearings, and (3) experience handling appeals if your case is denied. In most cases, the first-time application is denied, so you and your lawyer must be prepared to go to the next stage in the process. Make sure the lawyer you select has in-depth experience handling Social Security Disability claims.

MISTAKE #2: Choosing a lawyer only because you like his advertising. A flashy TV commercial or yellow pages ad doesn't mean anything except that the lawyer agreed to pay for the ad. Advertising can make almost any lawyer look like an expert. Don't choose a lawyer solely because you like his ad. Make sure you ask questions about the attorney's experience in handling disability claims. I will be glad to discuss with you cases I have handled that are similar to your own.

MISTAKE #3: Choosing a lawyer because he has an attractive web site. Like TV commercials, a web site can make you believe the lawyer has more experience than he really has. Don't take your eye off the ball. You want a lawyer who has in-depth experience handling Social Security Disability claims. Make sure you ask questions about the lawyer's experience in handling claims similar to yours.

MISTAKE #4: Choosing the lawyer who promises you the most money. The amount of money you're entitled to recover in benefits is based on many components: (1) whether you are currently working, (2) whether your medical condition is severe, (3) whether your medical condition is on Social Security's List of Impairments, (4) whether you can do the work you did before your injury, and (5) what type of work, if any, you're able to do now, after your injury. No one can tell you exactly what your case is worth until they gather all the facts. Any lawyer who promises you a certain amount of money before all of this information is known is making a promise he probably can't keep.

MISTAKE #5: Choosing a lawyer because he expects to settle your case early in the Social Security process. Some Social Security benefits are awarded based on the first application. Still, many first applications for benefits are denied. Sometimes the denial is

based on sound reasoning -- and at other times, the staff reviewing your application simply make a mistake. You and your lawyer must be prepared for anything, including appealing your case to Federal Court, if necessary. Due to the unpredictable application and appeals process, it's nearly impossible to predict when Social Security will award benefits. Don't select a lawyer based on promises to settle your case quickly. No one knows how long the Social Security bureaucracy will take to decide in your favor.

MISTAKE #6: Choosing a lawyer because of a referral from a friend. When a friend refers you to a lawyer, be careful. Yes, your friend probably means well. But your friend may not be the best source for a referral. You see, people often select a lawyer because they like him. But you need a lawyer who is much more than a nice person. You need an attorney who has the skill and experience to wade through the red tape and bureaucracy of the Social Security Administration. Winning Social Security Disability benefits is not an easy task. Make sure you're satisfied that the lawyer you choose has a proven track record in handling Social Security Disability claims.

MISTAKE #7: Choosing a lawyer merely because he appears successful. A handsome office and an expensive car don't tell you anything about the lawyer's experience. Don't judge a lawyer merely by appearance. Choose a lawyer by whether he has the knowledge, skill, experience and willingness to handle the mountain of paperwork at the beginning -- and to appeal your case to Federal Court, if necessary. That's the *best* way to make sure you get the disability benefits you deserve.

MISTAKE #8: Choosing a lawyer because of the location of his office. You may be inclined to select a lawyer who has an office down the street from your home or office. But this could be a big mistake because what you gain in convenience you may lose in knowledge and experience. Most of the work between you and your disability lawyer may be done by mail, e-mail, and over the telephone. You should hire the most experienced Social Security Disability lawyer you can find, even if you must drive a little farther to his office. You may find that the extra minutes on the road will be worth thousands of extra dollars in benefits. If travel is difficult for you, please let me know and I may be able to help you.

MISTAKE #9: Not reviewing the lawyer's track record. You can get a good idea of a lawyer's experience by reviewing his track record of successful disability cases. Ask the attorney about disability cases he has handled. This will help you determine whether the lawyer has the knowledge, skill, judgment and experience to handle your claim.

You're Invited to Call or E-mail!

“If your Social Security Disability claim has been denied -- if you want help filing your claim -- or if you have questions about your claim -- please don't hesitate to call. I will

gladly speak with you over the telephone or in person, whichever you prefer. And your initial visit is always free. You're welcome to call me anytime. I promise I'll do everything I can to help you." -- *Bard*

BARD BRIAN, ESQ.

BARD BRIAN LAW OFFICES
WEST KENTUCKY'S DISABILITY LAWYER

222 Kentucky Avenue, Suite 10 ❖ Paducah, Kentucky 42003
bardbrian99@msn.com ❖ www.BardBrianLawyer.com

Please Call 270-443-3131.

Page PAGE 6 of NUMPAGES 2

Page PAGE 2 of NUMPAGES 3