

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS APPLYING FOR DISABILITY BENEFITS

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The following has been prepared especially for the 2007 MS Conference and Expo.

My partner and I only represent individuals seeking Social Security or SSI disability benefits.

We handle no other cases. We are especially interested in representing individuals with multiple sclerosis or related neurological disorders. We always offer free consultations.

Our most important advice:

- When in doubt, ask an attorney who specializes in disability claims. Advice should always be free. Ours is.
- If you are still working, talk to a disability attorney before you plan to stop working. There are things you can do before you stop working that can increase your chances for a favorable (and quicker) decision.
- Be honest with yourself about your symptoms and limitations. Then be honest with your doctors. The better your medical records describe your condition, the stronger your claim.
- Enlist the support of your doctor before you apply. Make sure your doctor will support your disability claim.
- Keep a written journal of your symptoms and functional limitations. Then take that journal with you to *every* medical appointment.
- Report all of your symptoms to your doctors, not just the obvious ones. Overlooked symptoms include poor sleep, the need to nap on a daily basis, limitations in use of the hands, problems with concentration and memory, and depression and anxiety.
- The Social Security disability application is lengthy. Take the time necessary to prepare the forms accurately and completely. When in doubt, ask a disability attorney to review your application before you submit it. Our office will do that without charge or obligation.
- Do not overlook symptoms of anxiety or depression. If you have any of those symptoms, obtaining treatment will always strengthen your claim.