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H1: ALJ Hearings for SSDI Appeals in Houston

Your Social Security Disability ALJ Hearing is Coming Up. Are You Ready to Make Your Case?

If you're unable to work due to a disability, the financial and emotional strain can be tremendous. You're probably worried about the future and about how you and your family will make ends meet. Social Security Disability (SSD) could be the answer, but you applied for benefits and were denied.

Now you've filed an appeal, and soon you'll be facing a Social Security Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) at your appeals hearing. There's a lot at stake, and you need to be ready.

It's important for you to find an attorney with experience in Social Security Disability law--someone who can help you prepare your best case and stand by your side during the hearing. A U.S. Government study found that people with representatives are nearly 3 times as likely to win benefits from their ALJ hearing as those who go it alone

Every day at the Makris Law Firm, P.C., we work with clients in Houston and throughout Texas to help them prepare for their ALJ hearings. Fill out the form below, or call our office today at (888) 816-8721. (Hablamos Espanol.) You'll receive a free evaluation of your case.

Long Before Your ALJ Hearing Date, You Need to Update Your File with the SSA

You should review your file as soon as possible to make sure it's ready for your hearing. It's important to do the following:

- Update your records of medical treatment and any other documents that will help you show your medical condition;
- Get a written opinion from your doctor regarding your disability;
- Write a pre-hearing "brief," that summarizes your case; and
- Prepare for the kinds of questions that you may be asked at the hearing.

Getting ready for your ALJ hearing can be time-consuming and complicated. Call the Makris Law Firm, and at no charge, we'll discuss what you need to do to have a successful hearing.

Who Will Be at My ALJ Hearing?

An ALJ hearing is more informal than you may have imagined. There's no trial or jury, there's no lawyer from the SSA to argue against your case. The hearing will take place in an SSA office. You can expect it to last less than an hour.

Besides you and your attorney, others present may include:

- The judge
- The judge's clerk (assistant)
- A doctor or other medical expert who is there at the judge's request
- A vocational expert who may talk about jobs you can or can't do

Social Security does not require you to bring a lawyer to your hearing, but we strongly recommend that you do. The attorneys at the Makris Law Firm understand what it takes to successfully appeal a claim before an ALJ.

What Do I Say at the Hearing?

You are expected to answer the judge's questions about your health problems and how they affect your ability to work. Questions may be raised by the medical and/or vocational expert about your eligibility for benefits. It's important to be truthful and thorough in telling about your medical condition and how it affects your life. Give all the details, and create as clear a picture as possible without exaggerating.

At the Makris Law Firm, we'll meet with you before your hearing date so that you're ready for the questions you may be asked and can speak with confidence. We can cross-examine the experts and help the judge to understand your case.

What Happens After the Hearing?

Sometimes the judge will tell you his or her decision at the end of the hearing, but you'll also receive written notice of the decision later.

If the judge denies your claim, don't give up. A denial is not the end. There are steps you can take to keep your claim going, but you have a limited amount of time:

Appeals Council Review -- You can file an appeal with the Social Security Administrations Appeals Council Review requesting that they overturn the ALJ decision and send the case back for a new hearing.

Federal Court Appeal – If you are still denied at the Appeals Council level, you can file a lawsuit in Federal District Court.

The Makris Law Firm has the experience to take your appeal to the next level. Call our office today at (888) 816-8721 to discuss your case, or complete the form below. The Makris Law

Firm can help you maximize your chances for a successful appeal. Let's get started on your future today.

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