



SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

WHAT IS LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA?

Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada is a private, nonprofit, public interest law firm dedicated to providing free legal advice, advocacy, and representation to residents of Clark County. It is our mission to ensure that individual rights are protected regardless of a client's ability to pay for an attorney. Eligibility for our services depends on the type of legal assistance a client needs and his/her income level. This is determined during an initial intake session, at which time we also review the range of public and/or private services that might also be of assistance.

There is no fee for counsel and advice. We charge a fee if we successfully represent you at an Administrative Law Judge hearing, and you receive SSDI and/or SSI back-award benefits.

To schedule an appointment, please call 702-386-1070.

If you are no longer able to work because of a disability, you might consider applying for Supplemental Security Income and/or Social Security Disability Insurance. However, if you wait too long to file, you may no longer be eligible. The process of filing for both types of benefits is the same.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SSI AND SSDI?

SSI (Supplemental Security Income) pays benefits based on financial need, even if you have never worked, or if you have not worked enough.

SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance) pays benefits to people who have worked, paid Social Security taxes, and have obtained a sufficient number of work credits to qualify.

You may call Social Security at 800-772-1213 or visit them online at www.ssa.gov to start the application process. You can also visit one of the local offices. (See the resource list on the back of this brochure for locations.)

WHAT ARE THE STAGES OF A SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIM?

1. Application – If you are denied, you may file a Request for Reconsideration.
2. Request for Reconsideration – If you are denied, you may file a Request for Hearing.
3. Hearing – If you are denied, you may request a Review of the Decision by the Appeals Council.
4. Appeals Council – Your claim may be approved, sent back to the judge for another hearing, or denied.
5. Federal Court – If you are denied again by the Appeals Council, you may file an appeal in Federal District Court.

All appeals should be filed within sixty days of the denial date.

HOW DO I KNOW THAT I AM DISABLED?

Social Security's rules for disability are different from other agencies (like Workers' Compensation or the VA).

Social Security law defines disability as: The inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity, because of a physical or mental impairment, that will last longer than twelve months.

This means you are not necessarily disabled just because you cannot return to your previous job(s). It also means you should be getting current medical treatment for your disability. (If you have no insurance, you can contact Clark County Social Services at 702-455-4270 to apply for temporary medical assistance care.)

In your daily life you will want to pay attention to how your disability affects:

- Your daily living activities (for example, grocery shopping, doing household chores, cooking).
- Your ability to participate in social activities (for example, being with friends, getting along with other people).
- Your concentration, persistence, and pace (your ability to concentrate or remember things, follow through with tasks, or complete tasks at a reasonable pace).

HOW DO I SUPPORT MY DISABILITY CLAIM?

- Get current medical treatment and keep a complete list of doctors with addresses and phone numbers.
- Every time you go to the doctor, report all of your symptoms.
- If you have substance abuse issues, get help (it could affect your claim).
- Keep a simple log/diary of the side effects of medications, doctor's appointments, and how you feel from day to day.
- Fully explain any answers on forms you fill out. (For example, if you can do dishes but have to rest while doing so, explain that.)

CALL US WHEN YOU:

- Do not understand something Social Security said or sent to you, or you have questions about Social Security.
- Need assistance completing forms.
- Have been on Social Security benefits, and are being cut off after a review of your disability or because of an outstanding felony warrant.
- Receive a denial of the Request for Reconsideration or have filed a Request for Hearing.

AT THE HEARING LEVEL WE MAY:

- Help you file a Request for Hearing.
- Obtain medical records and update Social Security's file.
- Evaluate the merits of your case.
- Prepare you for and represent you at the hearing.

RESOURCES

Social Security Administration

www.ssa.gov

1-800-772-1213

Las Vegas Social Security Office

1250 S. Buffalo, # 150, Las Vegas, NV 89146

1-866-704-4859

North Las Vegas Social Security Office

4340 Simmons St., North Las Vegas, NV 89032

1-866-614-9667

Henderson Social Security Office

10416 S. Eastern Ave., Henderson, NV 89052

1-855-207-7084-

National Social Security Hotline

1-800-772-1213, TTY 1-800-325-0778

SOCIAL SERVICES RESOURCES

American Red Cross
702-791-3311

Catholic Charities
702-385-2662

Clark County Social Services
702-455-4270

Community Counseling Center
702-369-8700

Division of Insurance
702-486-4009

Economic Opportunity Board
702-445-7105

HELP of Southern Nevada
702-369-4357

HIV Services
800-230-7526

Lutheran Social Services of Nevada
702-639-1730

Nevada Legal Services (SSI only)
702-386-0404

SAFE Nest (Domestic Violence Shelter)
702-877-0133

Salvation Army
702-870-4430

Southern NV Adult Mental Health
702-486-6400

Southern NV Center for Independent
Living
702-889-4216

Southern Nevada Health District
702-759-1000

Southern Nevada Regional Housing
Authority
702-477-3100

United Way of Southern Nevada
702-892-2300 Unemployment
702-486-0350

University Medical Center
702-383-2000

VA Southern NV Healthcare
702-791-9000

Vocational Rehabilitation
702-486-5230

Welfare Department
(Food stamps, TANF & Medicaid)
702-486-1646



Providing civil legal advice and representation
to low-income Nevadans

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702-386-1070 • 800-522-1070
TDD 702-386-1059

www.lacsn.org

Hours: Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.