Fibromyalgia Benefits from Social Security

If you're suffering from fibromyalgia, benefits may be available to you through a Social Security Disability claim. These cash benefits can help replace income that your condition prevents you from earning through employment and enable you to reduce stress and worry caused by lack of income.

When it comes to fibromyalgia, Social Security Disability claims are not easy to prove, especially if fibromyalgia is the only condition being claimed. A claimant is more likely to receive a determination of disability if another condition is claimed in conjunction with fibromyalgia. And disability claims are also more likely to be approved for benefits if the condition is documented in detailed medical records by medical specialists, such as a rheumatologist.

Fibromyalgia Benefits: Tips for Proving Your Disability Successfully

Following the tips below will greatly increase your chances of successfully proving your fibromyalgia and disability claim to the Social Security Administration (SSA) and receiving an award of fibromyalgia benefits. These steps should be taken prior to filing your fibromyalgia Social Security Disability claim. However, if you've already filed and been denied benefits, you can apply many of these tips to improve your chances of winning an appeal.

- **Tip #1:** Thoroughly document all your symptoms on a daily basis. It's particularly important to document symptoms other than pain, such as fatigue, numbness and tingling, non-restorative sleep as well as dizziness and migraine headaches and depression.
- **Tip #2:** If you've been diagnosed with fibromyalgia by your family doctor, ask for a referral to a rheumatologist who can confirm the diagnosis, if necessary, and provide appropriate treatment. The SSA can give more weight to the opinions of specialists when awarding fibromyalgia benefits.
- **Tip #3:** Document how your fibromyalgia symptoms prevent you from working. Since fibromyalgia is not included in the SSA's Listings of Impairments, you must show that the symptoms make it impossible to do any work that you may have done in the past or any other kind of work. (See Steps 4 and 5 of the 5-Step Process for determining SSDI eligibility in our article Applying for Social Security Disability Insurance & the 5-Step Process.)
- **Tip #4:** If you have other conditions that contribute to your disability, be sure to document these as well as the SSA will consider impairments singly and in combination.
- **Tip #5:** Be sure to tell your doctors about all of your symptoms and how those symptoms affect your ability to function on a daily basis.
- **Tip #6:** To ensure you receive any past-due fibromyalgia benefits you may qualify for, thoroughly describe in writing how your symptoms and limitations

affected your ability to work prior to your diagnosis. To do this, some claimants keep a diary of their symptoms.

The best way to ensure you win the benefits you're entitled to is to have an experienced attorney represent you. The team at Richard I. Feingold & Associates, P.C. is highly experienced in representing fibromyalgia Social Security Disability cases. If you suffer from fibromyalgia and a disability claim may be necessary, you can receive a Free Consultation from our office regarding fibromyalgia and benefits from Social Security. Simply complete our online form or call us directly at (773) 989-9899. Or call toll free at (888)701-8222.

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