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SOCIAL SECURITY NEWSLETTER

This is a newsletter of interest to professionals who provide services to potential Social Security Disability and SSI Claimants.

How does the Stimulus Package and New Budget affect Social Security?

With a slew of new events going on in Washington it may be difficult to keep up with how new financial plans are affecting the world of Social Security. Two specific documents that are catalyst for this change are the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, better known as the Stimulus Package, and the 2010 fiscal year budget. Each provides some kind of proposed financial assistance or boost in funding to the Social Security Administration (SSA), but what will it mean for the future?

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Stimulus Package)

Total Amount to the SSA:

\$1 Billion

Breakdown of funds:

- \$500 Million to build a National Computer Center
- \$500 Million to assist in processing of workloads.

What does this mean?

In a previous newsletter we talked about four reasons that Social Security disability claims may be taking so long. This specific part of the Act, in theory, will help relieve some of the backlogs, but that means the hiring and training of new staff. Over time, these new hires may become very familiar with the process, but at the beginning many mistakes could be made due to inexperience. Even someone who has an "air tight claim" may still have their claim denied due to the fact that the people handling the case are not familiar with the processes involved.

The same can be said of the building of a National Computer Center. Anyone who has moved from one house to another or from one office building to another can attest to the hectic times that follow after the move. Again someone can be denied due to simple errors associated with the transition of information. If denied, obtaining an attorney that specializes in Social Security can cut through the red tape and greatly improve a claimant's chance of winning an appeal.

2010 Fiscal Year Budget

Highlights of Budget:

- Provides 11.6 billion (10% increase) for the Social Security Administration

The increase, much like the \$500 million in the Stimulus Package, is targeted at providing relief to the backlogs already in the SSA by staffing new employees. The budget reads, "This amount includes resources to ensure increased staffing in 2010 and will allow SSA, to increase the level of work processed in key service delivery areas to the American public, such as processing initial retirement and disability claims, and disability appeals."

One thing is clear from both of these financial documents. The Social Security Administration is augmenting their efforts to process claims. With the hiring of new staff and the transition of information in the near future, claimants who are initially declined can make sure their case was not one that fell through the cracks by hiring an attorney who is well versed on the laws of Social Security.

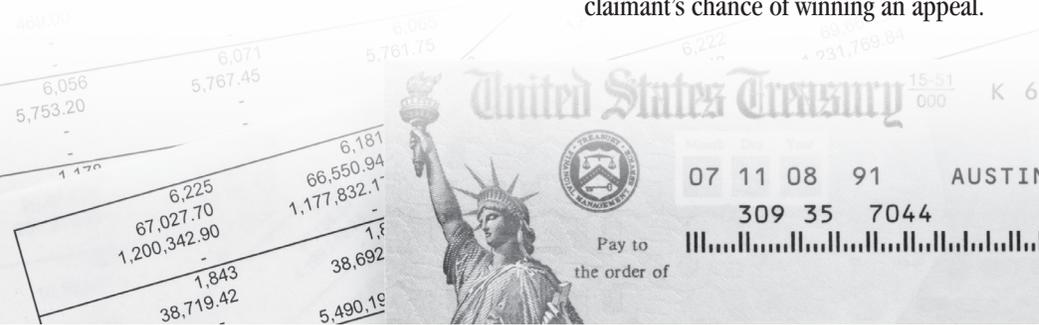
Training for Your Group or Office

We are available to conduct workshops or short training meetings, tailored to the needs of your office staff. **There is no charge for this.** Please call our office to make arrangements for in-service training, or talks to groups and organization on any area of Social Security Disability Law.

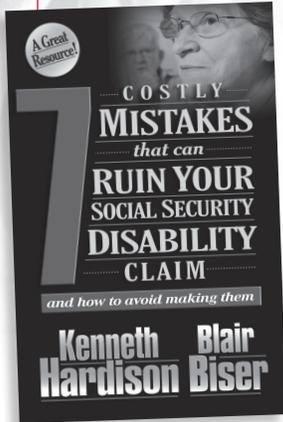
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Social Security Disability Book For FREE



Blair Biser and Ken Hardison have written a new book to help guide Social Security claimants through the landmine of traps they face with filing Social Security Disability claims. *7 Costly Mistakes That Can Ruin Your Social Security Disability Claim and How to Avoid Making Them* is written in plain English without the legal mumbo jumbo. This book will help you learn what you should and should not do when pursuing a Social Security Disability claim.

If you or your office would like some free copies for your staff, patients or clients, please call 1-800-600-7969 and we will get you as many copies as you need.



**Do you
know
someone
who is
disabled?**

The law defines disability as the inability to do any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period not less than 12 months. To meet this definition, you must have a severe impairment, which makes you unable to do your previous work or any other substantial gainful activity which exists in the national economy.