



Midwest Regional Teleconference – September 13, 2010

Navigating the SSDI Process

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This three pronged presentation will cover the social Security Disability Insurance process from application tips to the review process, and finally the approval and appeal process. Our speakers each bring a unique perspective and will give you tools and tips to navigate the SSDI process.

Erica Kiehnhoff, MS Society Social Worker presenting practical tips for how to get through the application process including what information to gather, how to keep track of the details and what the online application is like.

Nicole Neilsen, Legal Assistant for the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review (which is the Hearing Level of a Disability Claim for SSA). and **person with MS** will explain what happens to your application once it is submitted from the perspective of the social security office.

Yvonne Ernzen, attorney with Arehar & Ernzen, specializing in disability claims, will discuss steps to take if you are denied including the appeal process, as well as, information about when to get professional help in the process.

1. Basic information
 - a. What it stands for
 - b. Who is eligible
 - c. Who manages the program (state, federal)
 - d. Some basic stats on how it works, % denied, waiting periods, etc.

2. Application process- Erica
 - a. What information to keep
 - b. Files to include
 - c. Tips for filling out online form
 - d. Red flags
 - e. How is MS Society involved at this point

3. Review process by SS Administration- Nicole
 - a. What happens once application is received
 - b. How long does it take
 - c. Who reviews
 - d. Is there a chance to explain
 - e. What increases chances of being approved
 - f. Red flags
 - g. What happens when approved
 - h. What happens when denied

4. Appeal process- Yvonne
 - a. When should I get an attorney to help
 - b. What are the benefits of having an attorney and attorney fee
 - c. Appeal Process
 - i. Request for Reconsideration
 - ii. Request for Hearing
 - iii. Appeals Council Review
 - iv. Federal Court Review
 - d. When will I get my benefits
 - e. Can I work while I wait