



## New Mexico Legal Aid, Inc.

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[www.newmexicolegalaid.org](http://www.newmexicolegalaid.org)

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Statewide Telephone Intake Line: 1-833-545-4357

**This information packet DOES NOT establish an attorney-client relationship and DOES NOT indicate that New Mexico Legal Aid is representing you.**

New Mexico Legal Aid is normally not able to provide an attorney or advocate to represent applicants throughout the appeal process for applicants who are being denied eligibility for disability benefits. It is strongly recommended that you find a representative to help you with your application and possible appeal. You should not have to pay one of these firms because they would get paid from a portion of any “back award” that you would receive if or when SSA eventually agrees that you should receive disability benefits.

**VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: There are 4 stages to appealing the denial of benefits by the Social Security Administration and you must file an appeal for each step of the appeal process no later than 60 days after the date of the specific denial notice.**

1. Request for Reconsideration
2. Request for Hearing (before an Administrative Law Judge)
3. Request for Appeals Council Review
4. Federal Court Review

This information packet includes:

1. A 2-page information sheet about the process of applying for Social Security Disability Benefits.
2. A list of attorneys, advocates and paralegals who handle Social Security disability cases in New Mexico. This list does not necessarily include all attorneys, advocates and paralegals from New Mexico that represent claimants before the Social Security Administration. **New Mexico Legal Aid does not recommend any** of the attorneys, advocates and paralegals on this list. You can also check the “yellow pages” of the telephone directory.

3. You can also contact the **National Organization of Social Security Claimants Representatives (NOSSCR)** Lawyer Referral Service at 800.431.2804. They will give you the name and phone number of a private attorney in your area. You can contact the attorney about representing you in your claim for Social Security or SSI benefits. **BE SURE** and give them a zip code of the nearest major city where you could travel to if you needed to meet with the representative. If the person whose name NOSSCR gives you says he or she cannot help you, you can call NOSSCR back to get another person's name to contact.

## Social Security Disability Benefits

*If you would like an electronic copy of this information sheet with live hyperlinks to the resources mentioned sent to you by email, please email a request to [intakedocs@nmlegalaid.org](mailto:intakedocs@nmlegalaid.org)*

**Thank you to [TexasLaw Help](#) [See Note 1 for the full web address] for developing this useful information sheet about applying for disability benefits from the Social Security Administration**

### Introduction

*From The SSA:*

Social Security pays benefits to people who cannot work because they have a medical condition that is expected to last at least one year or result in death. Federal law requires this very strict definition of disability. While some programs give money to people with partial disability or short-term disability, Social Security does not. Certain family members of disabled workers also can receive money from Social Security.

**[The pamphlet by the Social Security Administration gives more information about the availability of disability benefits, including helpful charts to determine eligibility and instructions on how to apply.](#)** [See Note 2 for the full web address]

### Apply for Social Security Disability

*From The SSA:*

You should apply for disability benefits as soon as you become disabled. If you are ready to apply now, you can:

- Complete [your application online](#). [See Note 3 for the full web address]
- Call the toll-free telephone number **1-800-772-1213**. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you can call us at **TTY 1-800-325-0778**.
- Call or visit [your local Social Security office](#). [ See Note 34 for the full web address]

If you want to apply in person, please call and make an appointment **before** you visit your local office.

### Already applied for disability benefits?

If you have already filed a disability claim with Social Security, you may contact the [New Mexico Disability Determination Services](#) [See Note 5 for the full web address] with questions about processing your claim. Call DDS at (505) 841-5600 with questions concerning your claim or with information that updates your application.

### Already receiving disability benefits?

*From SSA:*

Generally, your disability benefits will continue as long as your medical condition has not improved and you can't work.

Under the law, your payments can't begin until you've been disabled for at least five full months. Payments usually start with your sixth month of disability.

If you applied for benefits after May 1, 2011, you must receive your payments electronically.

For more information on these and other important topics, please click here to read "[What You Need to Know When you Get Social Security Disability Benefits](#)" [See Note 6 for the full web address] by the social security administration.

## **Disability Under Review?**

*From SSA:*

The Social Security Administration is required, by law to review, from time to time, the current medical condition of all people receiving disability benefits to make sure they continue to have a qualifying disability.

Generally, if your health hasn't improved, or if your disability still keeps you from working, you'll continue to receive your benefits.

For more information on how the Social Security Administration decides if you are still disabled and eligible to receive on going disability benefits, click here to read "[How We Decide If You Still Have a Qualifying Disability](#)" [See Note 7 for the full web address]" by the social security administration.

## **Disability Benefits Wrongfully Terminated?**

*From SSA:*

Social Security wants to be sure that every decision made about your Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) claim is correct. If [SSA] decides that you no longer have a qualifying disability, you can appeal it. That means that SSA will look at your case again and see if their decision is correct.

For more information on the appeals process including levels of appeals and important deadlines, click here to read "[Your Right to Question the Decision to Stop Your Disability Benefits](#)" [8]by the social security administration. [See Note 8 for the full web address]

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### **Notes / Links**

[1] <https://texaslawhelp.org/directory/legal-resource/texaslaw-help>

[2] <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10029.pdf>

[3] <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/>

[4] <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>

[5] <http://www.dvr.state.nm.us/disability-determination-services.aspx>

[6] <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10153.pdf>

[7] <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10053.pdf>

[8] <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10090.pdf>

**Social Security Disability/SSI Attorney/Advocate Referral List**

***This list is provided solely as an aid in locating attorneys, advocates and paralegals who handle Social Security disability cases. This list does not necessarily include all attorneys, advocates and paralegals that represent claimants before the Social Security Administration. No recommendation is given to any of the attorneys, advocates and paralegals on this list. You can also check the "yellow pages" of the telephone directory.***

Gary J. Martone  
Martone Law Firm  
111 Lomas Blvd. NW, Suite #500  
Albuquerque, NM 87110-4197  
(505) 883-1260

Michael Armstrong  
(SSI/SSD denials)  
220 Adams St. SE #B  
Albuquerque, NM 87108-2805  
(505) 890-9056

Michael Hacker  
(SSI/SSD denials)  
1400 Central Ave. SE #2000  
Albuquerque, NM, 87108  
(505) 247-2222

Dennis Francish  
(SSI/SSD denials)  
5400 Lomas Blvd  
Albuquerque, NM 87108  
(505) 265-6765

Action Disability Representatives  
John Bishop (non-attorney representative)  
(SSI denials/SSDI/help with SSI applications)  
3150 Carlisle NE, Suite 114  
Albuquerque, NM 87110  
(505) 260-4667  
Toll-free: 1-866-826-9366

Disability Claims Assistance  
Roy Archuleta (non-attorney representative)  
1810 N. Riverside Drive  
Española, NM 87532  
(505) 753-9124

Mike Liebman  
(SSI/SSD denials)  
128 Grant Ave, Suite 223  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 466-9777

David Chavez  
(SSI/SSDI denials)  
651 Hwy 314  
Los Lunas, NM 87031  
(505) 865-9696

Barbara Jarvis  
(SSI denials/SSD)  
2131 Lead Ave SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106-2822  
(505) 246-9196

Michelle Baca Attorney at Law  
(SSI/SSD denials)  
6301 Indian School NE Ste. #510  
Albuquerque, NM 87110  
(505) 872-1144

Victor Roybal  
(SSI/SSD denials)  
230 Adams SE Suite A  
Albuquerque, NM 8710  
(505) 265-5805

Disability Advocacy Clinic  
(SSI/SSD denials)  
1330 San Pedro Dr. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87110  
(505) 255-5770

Law offices of Donald Vigil P.C.  
(SSI/SSDI denials)  
100 14<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
(505) 247-2020

Patricia Glazek  
(SSI/SSD denials)  
1919 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite I  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 982-3164

Helen Laura Lopez  
(SSI/SSD denials)  
1421 Luisa Street, Suite H  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
(505) 988-4657

William Keller  
108 East Aztec Avenue  
Gallup, NM 87301  
(505) 722-5608

The Injury and Disability Law Center  
Legal Services  
614 N Main St  
Roswell, NM 88201  
(575) 208-1608

Gomez Law Offices, LLC  
(SSDI denials)  
107 S Kentucky Ave  
Roswell, NM 88201  
(888) 756-6044

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