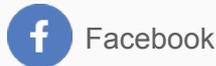


Jan Dils January Social Security Newsletter

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**PERSONAL INJURY  
VETERANS DISABILITY  
& SOCIAL SECURITY**  
We Won't Take NO For An Answer®

JANUARY 2017  
**SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS  
IN THE NEWS**



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I always look forward to the start of the New Year, and this one is already shaping up to be one of our best! After a wonderful holiday season spent with family and friends, the Jan Dils team and I took some time to look back at 2016, and to renew our commitment to our clients in 2017. After all, no matter how hard we work, we understand above all else that we only succeed when our clients succeed.

We have also renewed our commitment to keeping our clients informed throughout the Social Security disability claims process. We are always happy to share the latest information, news, and advice that you can use every step of the way. For instance, we are kicking off our first Social Security newsletter of the year with an article outlining some important steps you can take to help make your claim successful. We have also included an article on a topic we are asked about frequently: unsuccessful work attempts. Be sure to read both and let us know if you have any questions about these or other areas of Social Security disability.

In closing, I want to emphasize that our commitment to our clients always come first. You don't have to struggle alone through the claims

**JAN DILS**  
Social Security Disability  
law blog

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process—our experienced, professional and caring team is ready to fight for you and for the benefits you deserve. Here’s to a happy, healthy 2017 —we look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,



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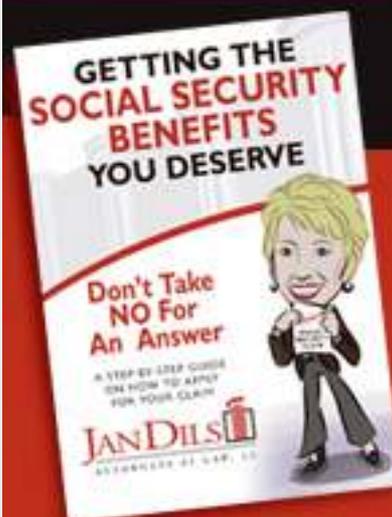
## TIPS TO GET YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIM APPROVED!

Getting your Social Security claim approved may not be simple or quick, but there *are* actions you can take to help ensure that your claim gets approved:

- **Try your best to keep appointments with the SSA or DDS.** Missing these dates will likely cause your claim to be delayed due to the amount of time it takes to get appointments rescheduled. There are a lot of people filing for Social Security benefits; it can take weeks, or even months for a new date to become available.

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Request a copy of Jan Dils easy-to-understand plan on how to apply for and win your benefits

Request a Book!

### Contact a Jan Dils Case Manager

Email Address by Last Name

#### A-D

[AmberS@jandils.com](mailto:AmberS@jandils.com)

[Julie@jandils.com](mailto:Julie@jandils.com)

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- **Notify the Social Security Administration of any address or telephone number changes.** We have been helping clients with their Social Security claims for close to 20 years, and this has always been an issue. If the staff at Social Security can't get in touch with you, they must assume you no longer need help. Alerting them of changes can be as simple as a phone call. However, if you have an attorney like us, we can notify them on your behalf. We have safeguards in place to verify that your changes are accepted.
- **Seek Treatment.** To put it simply, the Social Security Administration is trying to determine if you are disabled. The best way for them to determine if you are disabled is with medical evidence. You can obtain this evidence by seeking treatment from medical professionals. Continuous treatment will help show that you are suffering from a condition. For instance, going to the doctor once for back pain 8 years ago will not hold up against an individual who goes to the doctor for back treatment every quarter.
- **Document everything!** Keep a journal or calendar of things like seizures, panic attacks, migraines or any other conditions that occur on a regular basis. While these journals are not a substitute for medical attention, they can supplement any medical evidence you have.
- **Be honest.** We understand that some conditions may be embarrassing or hard to talk about, but it always helps to be honest with attorneys, doctors, and the professionals at the SSA. Being upfront with these individuals can help them better document your disability, which in turn, can help you get approved.
- **Don't self-incriminate.** For instance, if you are trying to claim that a back condition is keeping you from working then it's probably not a good idea to post a picture of yourself water skiing or rock climbing on Facebook. It may seem like common sense, but so many people don't think twice about posting photos. Even if your accounts are "private", it is still possible for these photos to harm your claim.

Source: <http://www.jandils.com/blog/>



**WHAT IS AN UNSUCCESSFUL  
WORK ATTEMPT?**



One of the most common misconceptions about applying for Social Security disability is that you cannot attempt to work once your claim has started. Fortunately, the Social Security Administration has regulations in place for individuals that want to try working again but are unsure if their medical conditions will allow them to.

**According to the Code of Federal Regulations:**

The Social Security Administration will consider work of 3 months or less to be an unsuccessful work attempt if you stopped working, or you reduced your work and earnings below the substantial gainful activity earnings level, because of your impairment or because of the removal of special conditions which took into account your impairment and permitted you to work.

Social Security will also consider work that lasted longer than 3 months to be an unsuccessful work attempt if it ended, or was reduced below substantial gainful activity earnings level, within 6 months because of your impairment or because of the removal of special conditions which took into account your impairment and permitted you to work and:

1. You were frequently absent from work because of your impairment;
2. Your work was unsatisfactory because of your impairment;
3. You worked during a period of temporary remission of your impairment; or
4. You worked under special conditions that were essential to your performance and these conditions were removed.

So, what does this all mean? If you have applied for Social Security disability benefits and you want to see if you can work, you do not have to stop your claim immediately. You'll want to speak to your representative or case manager about the type of work you will be attempting, your weekly hours and rate of pay. You'll also want to take note of any special accommodations your employer may have for you.

Ultimately, if you are unable to continue your employment and you meet the regulations as they are stated above, your work could be considered an unsuccessful work attempt and you can still be found disabled prior to the date you attempted to return to work. However, if you find that you are able to continue working, you may have the possibility of being

awarded for a closed time period. A closed time period of disability may be awarded if you were unable to seek gainful employment for at least 12 months due to your medical conditions prior to returning to work.

Source: <http://www.jandils.com/blog/>

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*Jan Dils keeps you updated on Social Security disability benefits news and important issues that matter the most. We not only focus on Social Security Disability, we also provide legal assistance for Veterans Disability Benefits . We understand the claims process and specialize in making sure Veterans receive the proper representation needed for receiving benefits. For more information on our Veterans Disability services, please visit [www.fight4vets.com](http://www.fight4vets.com)*

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Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, handles Personal Injury Claims, Social Security and Veterans Disability for clients throughout West Virginia with offices located in Parkersburg-Beckley-Charleston-Huntington-Logan as well as one additional office located in Charlotte, North Carolina. But regardless of where you are located we are able to serve you or a family member Nationwide.

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