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Am I Eligible for Social Security Disability if I Have Arthritis?

Arthritis is a debilitating condition that damages the joints, organs, and other parts of the body. It becomes extremely difficult to independently walk, stand, and perform other normal activities as the condition worsens. Arthritis is included on the Social Security List of Impairments, but you must prove the condition severely limits your ability to work in order to qualify for disability benefits.



According to Social Security regulations, you are considered disabled if you can't "ambulate effectively" as a result of your condition. "Ambulate effectively" is defined as the inability to walk a reasonable distance to complete daily activities and being unable to travel from home to the place of employment without assistance. Inform your treating physician about the limitations you are experiencing so that they can be documented in the medical records submitted to the Social Security Administration.

How Administrative Law Judges Differ on Granting Benefits for Disability and Unemployment

When a claimant applies for Social Security disability while receiving unemployment compensation, it is a complicated and conflicting issue. Administrative law judges tend to have very different views regarding whether people who receive unemployment compensation should be approved for disability benefits.



Unemployment compensation is when you are able to work, but can't find a job. In order to be eligible for Social Security disability, you must have an impairment that prevents you from working for at least a year or will result in death. There is no rule or regulation that prevents claimants from getting both unemployment and disability benefits at the same time.

Some judges believe a claimant is taking advantage of the government programs when trying to obtain both benefits within the same timeframe, while others know the claimants may have tried finding employment and don't consider it a factor when assessing a disability claim.

Why is My Testimony Important at the Disability Hearing?

The purpose of testifying at the Social Security disability hearing is to let the judge know about your medical condition, symptoms, and any difficulties you have completing daily activities. It's an opportunity to give the judge a personal perspective on your physical or mental limitations and how they affect your ability to work. Your testimony could play a crucial role in helping the judge decide if you should receive disability benefits.



Since you are testifying under oath, you must answer the questions honestly. You should provide specific details about your limitations without exaggerating the severity of the condition. If you aren't truthful and claim to have medical problems that aren't consistent with information in the medical records, you could lose credibility. An attorney can prepare you for the hearing and explain the most effective way to respond to the judge's questions.

Your case is important to us. If we can't help you, we'll do our best to refer you to someone who can.

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