

HOW CAN I GET AN ATTORNEY'S SERVICES FOR FREE?

- The Put Something Back Project (PSB) provides free private attorneys to low income people with civil legal problems.
- To get an attorney from PSB you must go to an intake location listed below. Bring proof of your income, identification and any papers concerning your legal problem. If you do not speak English, and the Project does not have a translator, you must bring your own translator. A limited number of people will be seen on a first come, first served basis at each location.
- An experienced staff person will interview you to decide if you are financially eligible for a PSB lawyer, and whether you have the type of legal problem that the Project handles.
- If you qualify and are assigned to an attorney, you will be sent a letter telling you the lawyer's name and telephone number. You must call the lawyer for an appointment. If you qualify, but do not receive a letter within four weeks, call 305-579-5733 for help.

PSB Intake Location:

Legal Aid Society
Put Something Back Office
123 N.W. First Avenue
Miami, Florida
TUESDAY and THURSDAY

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY & SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME



**Disability Law Project
Legal Services of Greater Miami Inc.
3000 Biscayne Boulevard, Suite 500
Miami, Florida 33137
(305) 576-0080
www.lsgmi.org**

PASSIONATELY COMMITTED TO EQUAL JUSTICE

HOW DO I APPLY FOR SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY and/or SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME(SSI)?

- You can apply for these benefits at your local Social Security Administration (SSA) office.
- Once you have applied, SSA will request information regarding your medical treatment and past work experience. You must comply with any requests for information. Failure to provide SSA with this information could result in your case being denied.
- SSA will take 4 to 8 months to make a decision about your application.

WHAT DO I DO IF MY APPLICATION FOR SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY and/or SSI IS DENIED?

- You will have sixty (60) days to appeal the denial of your application for benefits.
- You can appeal by filing a Request for Reconsideration at your local SSA office. Be sure to keep a date stamped copy when you file the Request. This is your proof that you have appealed.
- SSA will take 5 to 6 months to make a decision on your Request for Reconsideration.
- SSA may request that you be examined by one of its doctors to get more information about your medical impairment. You should be sure to go to any scheduled appointments.

WHAT DO I DO IF MY REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION IS DENIED?

- You will again have sixty (60) days to appeal the decision.
- You can appeal by filing a Request for Hearing with an Administrative Law Judge at your local SSA office. Be sure to keep a date stamped copy when you file the Request. This is your proof that you have appealed.
- Once you file the Request for Hearing your case will be transferred to the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review (ODAR).
- ODAR will take approximately 24 months to schedule your case for a hearing with an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ).
- You can call (866)964-5052 for the status of your pending case.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE ODAR HEARING?

- It is a good idea to have an attorney represent you at your hearing, but is not required. You can represent yourself if you do not have an attorney.
- In many cases, a medical and/or vocational expert will be at your hearing. The medical expert will testify about your impairment. The vocational expert will testify about your ability to do your previous work, and whether there are any jobs you can do.
- The ALJ will take approximately 2 to 4 months after the hearing to make a decision.

WHAT DO I DO IF THE ALJ ISSUES AN UNFAVORABLE DECISION?

- You will again have sixty (60) days to appeal the decision.
- You can appeal by filing a Request for Review of Hearing Decision/ Order at your local SSA office. Be sure to keep a date stamped copy when you file the request. This is your proof that you have appealed.
- Once you file the appeal, your case will be transferred to the Appeals Council.
- The Appeals Council will take 18 to 24 months to schedule your case for a hearing with an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ).

HOW CAN I GET AN ATTORNEY TO ASSIST ME AT MY HEARING?

- You can get an attorney at any point in the application process. However, most attorneys will only accept your case once you file your Request for Hearing with an Administrative Law Judge.
- You can contact the Miami-Dade Lawyer Referral Service at (305) 350-5297 in order to get a private attorney to assist you with your SSI and/or Social Security disability application. You must pay \$25.00 in advance to obtain a referral to an attorney. Please call their phone number for more information about this service.
- You can also check the yellow pages of the phone book for the names of private attorneys. We also suggest that you check with friends and relatives for the names of attorneys that they can recommend.