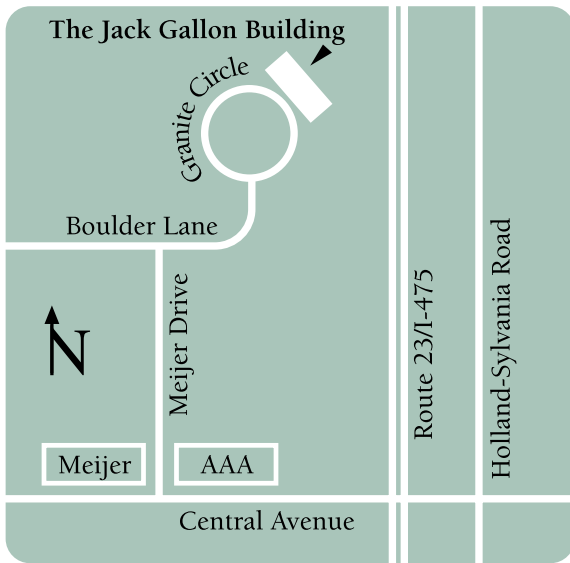


BILL of RIGHTS

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SOCIAL SECURITY BILL of RIGHTS

1 *You have the right to file a disability claim with the Social Security Administration.*

Whether or not you worked and paid into Social Security, an adult or child has the right to contact the Social Security Administration and file a claim for disability benefits if you have a disability that has lasted 12 consecutive months or more OR is expected to last 12 consecutive months or more.

2 *You have the right to receive a written determination and appeal decisions if necessary.*

Social Security is required to provide you with written notices of any favorable or unfavorable determinations made, which will include your right to appeal and appeal time frame.

3 *You have the right to be represented by an attorney or non-attorney.*

During any period of your disability claim, you may obtain an attorney or a non-attorney to represent you.

4 *You have the right to a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.*

You may request a hearing before a Judge to discuss all the relevant issues of your disability claim.

5 *You have the right to review and/or receive a copy of your Social Security file or disability claim folder.*

You may contact the Social Security Administration at any time to review or obtain a copy of your government file, whether a paper file or electronic file.

6 *You have the right not to be discriminated against.*

You cannot be discriminated against for reasons pertaining to age, race, alcohol/drug addiction, past or present incarcerations for legal troubles, religion, sex, national origin, disability, marital status/sexual orientation, parental status, or political affiliation.

7 *You have the right to receive an evaluation by a Social Security consultative medical examiner in the event you cannot afford or otherwise obtain medical treatment for your disability.*

If you cannot afford medical treatment to determine the extent of your disability (or disabilities) or cannot otherwise obtain medical treatment, Social Security will provide a consultative evaluation with one of their independent medical examiners.

8 *You have the right to have your treating physician's opinion, regarding the extent of your disability, considered as a controlling opinion.*

The medical opinion of the treating physician is given substantial deference because he/she has had greater opportunity to examine and observe you as a patient and, as a result of his/her duty to cure you, the treating physician is generally more familiar with your condition than are other physicians.

9 *You have the right to receive the services of an interpreter.*

Free of charge, you may request that the Social Security Administration provide an interpreter, if you do not have your own. An interpreter can be provided whether you are speaking to a Social Security representative via telephone or in person.

10 *You have the right to request a continuation of benefits on a disability cessation claim while going through the appeals process.*

If you are on disability benefits and have your claim medically reviewed and subsequently found to be no longer disabled by the Social Security Administration, you may file for a continuation of benefits while appealing the determination.

11 *You have the right to a trial work period while receiving disability benefits.*

While receiving disability benefits, you may attempt to work (consecutively or not) for a period of 9 months without interruption of your disability benefits. After the 9 month period has expired you may also ask for a 3 month extension and continue to work and receive disability benefits. Social Security has also made the "Ticket to Work Program" available to beneficiaries as well. The program will help you obtain employment services, vocational rehabilitation services, or other support services necessary to achieve a vocational (work) goal.

12 *You have the right, under restricted circumstances, to have a family member become a substitute party for you in the event of your death while going through the appeals process.*

In the event of your untimely passing while going through the disability appeals process, most circumstances will allow a family member to continue your disability claim and receive a period of disability benefits that would have otherwise been due to you until the date of your death.

Experienced. Exceptional. Commitment you deserve.