



Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc. Disability Law Project

WHAT

The Disability Law Project (DLP) provides free legal assistance to disabled children and adults who have been denied Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits.

WHY

A very high percentage of applicants are denied SSI and SSDI benefits at the initial stages and must request an administrative hearing to appeal the denial.

HOW

The Disability Law Project helps disabled children and adults by gathering the medical records and evaluations needed to establish SSI or SSDI eligibility and providing representation at the administrative hearing level.

With the help of the Project's skilled attorneys, over 80% of benefit denials are reversed, bringing much needed cash and Medicaid benefits to these individuals.

WHO

LSGMI provides free civil legal services to the neediest individuals within our community. Our clients are primarily women, children, seniors, and the working poor. In many cases, we are the safety net preventing these individuals from becoming homeless or dependent on welfare. On a daily basis, our team of attorneys, who are organized into legal specialty units and projects, provides high quality representation to clients with problems relating to housing, health care, education, disability benefits, family issues, and employment.

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Disability Law Project Typical Cases

- Jimmy suffers from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Oppositional Defiant Disorder. He is struggling in school and is not able to read or do math at his grade level. LSGMI gathered all of his medical and school records in order to establish his claim for Supplemental Security Income benefits and represented him at a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. With LSGMI's help Jimmy was successful in obtaining SSI benefits.
- Sandra, a homeless woman, suffers from Schizophrenia and Depression. However, her mental illness is so severe that she will not seek the treatment that she needs. LSGMI represented Sandra before an Administrative Law Judge and argued that, despite the lack of documented medical evidence, the severity of Sandra's mental illness met the Social Security Administration standards for disability. LSGMI was successful in getting Sandra SSSI benefits which will assist her in getting stable housing and improve her overall well-being.
- Pedro was diagnosed with HIV in 1996. In 2009 he became ill and started suffering from many of the secondary effects related to HIV. When his application for Supplemental Security Income was denied, Pedro came to LSGMI for help with his appeal. LSGMI gathered medical records to establish that Pedro met the requirements for disability based on HIV, and represented him at a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. As a result, Pedro received two years of retroactive benefits and ongoing monthly benefits.

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