



Compassionate Advocates for the Injured and Disabled

The Christie Report

Social Security Disability

June / July 2012

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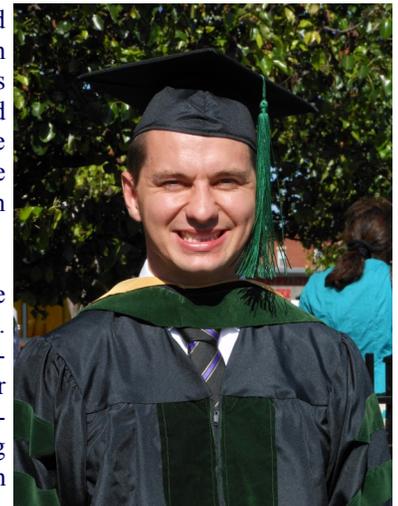
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Personal Message - from Sharon

You Can Call Me Al—Make That Doctor Al

On May 10, 2012, my stepson, Alex (Al for short), graduated from medical school at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond! What a proud day for Al, his dad, his sister, his brother-in-law—well, for the whole family. We are all proud of him for becoming a doctor, but more importantly, for the generous and caring man that he has become. That is a tribute to his late mom, his dad and his big sister. They taught him well.



I didn't know Al when he was a little boy but I am told that he always wanted to be a doctor, and, specifically, a pediatrician. Well, his dream has come true. Al will start his pediatric residency on July 1 at the University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville. And here is a small world story. I graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in Nursing and worked at the medical center for several years. I am thrilled for Al and look forward to visiting him in Charlottesville and maybe seeing some of my old "hang-out" spots from college days!

Al will be a great pediatrician because he is smart and will relate well to his patients. He is a big kid at heart—in a good way! For his graduation party, he wanted a "moon bounce." So his sister got a ginormous Baltimore Ravens moon bounce that took up most of the driveway. Al and his friends and all the little kids in our neighborhood had a great time in it. Some of his graduation gifts included toys for the waiting room of his pediatrics office. I don't think his patients will ever see those toys, though, because Al is having too much fun playing with them himself!

So, here's to you, Al. Work hard, love what you do, take good care of your patients, and never forget that you have the power to change their lives.

Thanks for the Referrals

The greatest compliment I can receive is for clients and colleagues to refer new clients. Thank you to everyone who referred clients in March, April & May.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Stanley Benn, MS | Darlene Cassidy | Cynthia Crowell | DORS |
| Stephen Gill | Victoria Grace, Esq. | David Greenwood | Latona Harley |
| Aaron Kadish, Esq. | Lupus Mid-Atlantic | Mosaic of Timonium | NAMI-Baltimore |
| Dwight Petit, Esq. | Joseph Rutherford | Saiontz & Kirk | SALI |
| Erin Snyder, Esq. | Donnell Vaughn | Irwin Weiss, Esq. | Tom Yost, Esq. |

Brain Injury Association of Maryland



“Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under the trees on a summer’s day, listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.”

~ John Lubbock

Welcome Adriana Gorgone!



My name is Adriana Gorgone and I am new here at the Law Offices of Sharon Christie. I’m currently in graduate school at the University of Baltimore, studying Negotiation and Conflict Resolution. I’ll graduate in December 2012. I graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park, in 2009. I have experience working with at-risk youth and have worked with the Baltimore City Public Defender’s office. I also have previous social security disability experience and really enjoy working with our clients.

I spend a lot of time with my family and am very close with my two brothers. I have a 90 pound blue nosed pit-bull (Beau) and he is my angel. He likes to crawl up on my lap and cuddle (he thinks he’s a lap dog and I’m not going to change his mind). My family just recently got another pit-bull puppy—Yolo. Beau and Yolo are attached at the hip already.

In my spare time I like to read, relax, travel and spend time with my boyfriend, whom I have known since I was six.

My mother is from Guatemala, so I try to travel there once a year. My dad is from Sicily, where I have yet to visit but hope to do so soon. I look forward to speaking with everyone!

Common Reasons for Denial of Social Security Disability Benefits

If you received notice that your initial application for disability benefits was denied, you are probably shocked and dismayed and wondering why.

It is important to remember that it is only an initial application and that you can appeal the decision and improve your chances of obtaining benefits by hiring an experienced disability attorney. It is important to know that decisions on initial applications are made by state agency employees and these employees often deny cases that are later approved. There are several common reasons that Social Security will initially deny someone benefits:

- The state agency did not gather all the medical evidence showing that your impairment meets the List-

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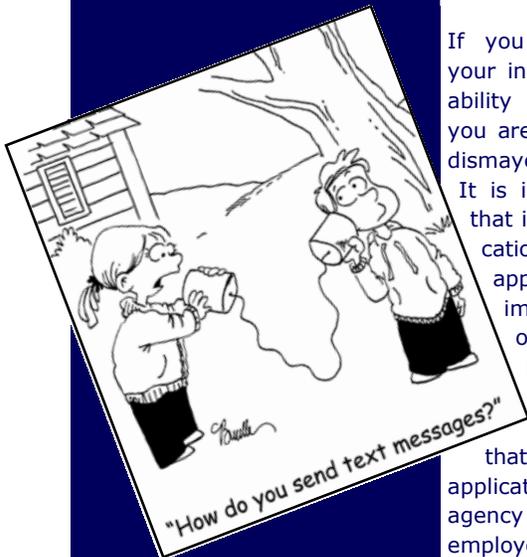
- The state agency established your educational level based on how much school you completed, but your true educational level, as shown by testing, is considerably lower.
- The state agency did not consider all of your impairments and their combined affect on your ability to work.
- The state agency reviewing your application may have incorrectly determined that your impairment is “not severe.”
- The state agency did not properly consider your allegations of pain.
- The state agency underestimated the physical or mental demands of your past

work and, thus, incorrectly decided that you can still do your job.

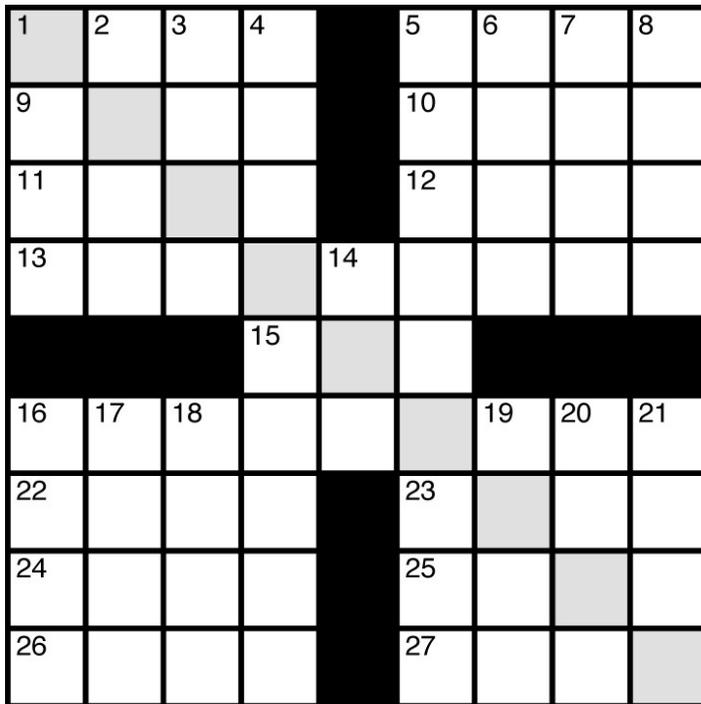
After you receive the notice denying your benefits, you may feel hopeless and may even consider not pursuing your claim further. This would be a mistake. Keep two important facts in mind:

1. Two-thirds of all applications for Social Security disability benefits are initially denied.
2. Over half of Social Security disability claimants who appeal to the administrative hearing level are ultimately awarded disability benefits.

An experienced disability attorney can assist you in pointing out the mistakes made by the state agency and in turning your denial into an award of benefits.



Summer Sunshine



Across

- 1. Hindu Mr.
- 5. Basil, e.g.
- 9. Caddie's offering
- 10. Done with
- 11. Auricular
- 12. Angler's hope
- 13. Word is broken into parts
- 15. Bridge guru Culbertson
- 16. Utterances
- 22. Soon, to a bard
- 23. Flying jib, e.g.
- 24. Money drawer
- 25. Yellowfin, e.g.
- 26. "Don't go!"
- 27. Open, as an envelope

Down

- 1. Life stories
- 2. Bohemian
- 3. Recipe direction
- 4. Dirty
- 5. Amateurs
- 6. Bad to the bone
- 7. Network of blood vessels
- 8. Born's partner
- 14. 100 percent
- 16. Brewery equipment
- 17. "Don't bet ___!"
- 18. Pepsi, e.g.
- 19. Writer Bellow
- 20. Peewee
- 21. Blind segment



FREE Seminars
- Social Security Disability -

Sessions Each Month!
 See website for days, times,
 and locations

Baltimore Events

- Waterfront Wellness**
FREE Fitness Classes
 Sundays, May thru September
 8:30am—12:30pm
 West Shore Park
 401 Light Street
 Baltimore, MD 21202
 Register by writing to:
 Beth@waterfrontpartnership.org
- 1st Thursdays in the Park**
 Thru Sept. 6 | 5:30—8:45pm
 West Mount Vernon Park
 FREE Concerts
 Bring lawn chairs, food and friends!
- Harborplace 2012 Live Concerts**
 Fridays & Saturdays
 May thru Sept. | 6-8pm
 Harborplace Amphitheater
 FREE
- Baltimore Farmers' Market & Bazaar**
 April thru December | 7am—Noon
 Under the Jones Falls Expressway at
 Holliday & Saratoga streets
- 4th of July Fireworks**
 9:30pm
 Inner Harbor
 Enjoy live entertainment
 Fireworks can be viewed from several loca-
 tions, including Federal Hill, Fell's Point and
 Rash Field.



Time to Move More!

Now that the weather is warm, it's a great time to move more, get fresh air and sunshine—in short, it's time to get healthier. Walking is a GREAT form of exercise. Walking controls weight, blood sugar and cholesterol levels. It also improves cardiovascular fitness and circulation AND it facilitates medical rehabilitation and recovery from many ailments, including heart attack. On top of all that, it generates a sense of well-being and can relieve depression, anxiety and stress by naturally producing endorphins. Start out slowly and walk only a short distance and then work up gradually from there. Let your body guide you. With exercise, increasing distance and speed gradually is best! Take a friend along and have an even better time!



And Eat Better!

Eating better goes hand in hand with getting more exercise. Put the two together and you'll feel amazing. With so much nutrition and diet information floating about these days, though, it's difficult to remember just what "eating well" actually is! Returning to basics works well here. Eat LOTS of vegetables. Add in some fruits, but not too many. When you have bread, make sure it's made with whole grains and as few ingredients as possible (no words you cannot pronounce). Better yet, make it yourself! Stay away from "white"...white sugar, white flour. You get the idea. Put distance between yourself and processed foods. Eat mostly raw fruits and vegetables. If you like meat, have some now and then, making it a side dish instead of a main course. When possible, buy organic, even when buying meat. And don't forget to grow your own vegetables if you have room. Remember they grow well in pots. Here's to your health!

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To receive a FREE copy of
Sharon Christie's
*Unofficial Guide to Social
 Security Disability Claims*

Call 410-823-8200
 or visit our website at
www.SharonChristieLaw.com

June/July 2012



Sharon A. Christie Law

The **Law Office of Sharon A. Christie** helps disabled workers get disability benefits from Social Security. It is a long and complicated process and you should not go it alone.

The firm's founder, Sharon A. Christie, is a nurse as well as an attorney.

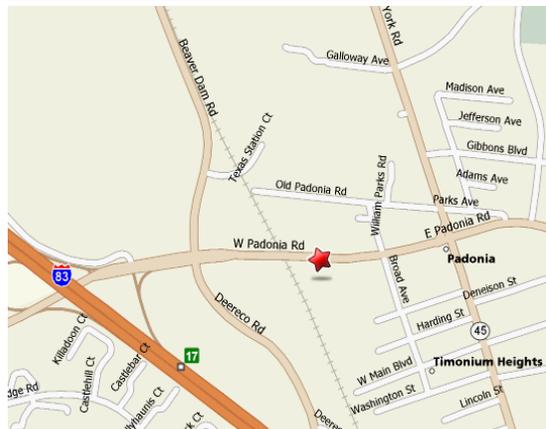
Sharon's clients receive the benefit of having their cases handled by a firm that knows the medicine AND the law.

If you have applied for Social Security disability benefits and need help, call the firm today. If you need more information about the process, go to the website and order a FREE copy of:

Sharon's Unofficial Guide to Social Security Disability Claims

or register for one of her upcoming seminars!

For more information, visit our website at:
www.SharonChristieLaw.com.



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Practice Area:
Social Security Disability

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