



### **Why Your Social Security Disability Application was Denied**

If you just received notice that your initial application for disability benefits was denied, you are probably shocked and dismayed and wondering why. You must remember that that this is only an initial denial and you can appeal the decision. Decisions on initial applications are made by state agency employees and these employees often deny cases that are later approved.

Some common reasons why Social Security denies disability applications include:

- The state agency did not gather all the medical evidence showing that your impairment meets the Listings.
- 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 effect 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. Two-thirds of all applications for Social Security disability benefits are initially denied. Don't go it alone. Improve your chances of winning by hiring an experienced disability attorney. An experienced disability attorney can assist you in pointing out the mistakes made by the state agency and turn that denial into an award of benefits.