

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Simply contact The Law Office of Debra J. Venhaus to get started on your Will and or Social Security Disability and/or Supplemental Security Income.

Drop in at:

Northwood Building, Suite 208
19707 44th Avenue
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½ block south of 196th Street on the east side of the street.

Telephone:

425-774-5213

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DebraJV@DebraLaw.org

Visit our website at:

www.DebraLaw.org

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

Debra J. Venhaus has successfully helped thousands of disabled people obtain their much needed Social Security benefits since 1993. Her clients have various types of disabilities: Bipolar Disorder, Depression, Anxiety, PTSD, OCD, back problems, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's, Diabetes, and other mental or physical impairments.

Ms. Venhaus began offering Wills, Powers of Attorney, Community Property Agreements, "Living Wills" and related documents when she saw the needs of her Social Security clients. She now offers this service to the general public.

Let us help with your needs in these areas.

THE LAW OFFICE OF DEBRA J. VENHAUS, PLLC

Let us help you with:

- ◆ Wills for the non-taxable estate
- ◆ Social Security Disability
- ◆ Supplemental Security Income



DJV

Law Office of Debra J. Venhaus, PLLC

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SOCIAL SECURITY (SSA) - FAQs

- ◆ **Is “disability” the same as “SSI”?**
No, they are 2 different programs. Eligibility for Disability Insurance Benefits (“disability”) is based on your work history, and in some cases, the work history of your spouse or parent. SSI is a needs-based program. Both require you to be disabled.
- ◆ **How does Social Security determine whether I am disabled?**
SSA law sets forth a 5-step “sequential evaluation” process to determine whether you are disabled. SSA asks:
 1. Are you working?
 2. If not, do you have a “severe” impairment?
 3. If yes, do your impairments meet the severity of the “Listings” (specific criteria set forth in the SSA regulations)?
 4. If not, are you capable of performing the jobs that you have done in the past 15 years?
 5. If not, then are there other jobs that exist in significant numbers in the national economy that you can do even with your limitations?
- ◆ **Am I too young to be disabled under SSA’s rules?**
SSA’s rules are slightly different for certain age groups, but even a “younger individual” (someone under 50 years old) can be found disabled. However, Social Security does consider your age, education and work you performed in the past 15 years.

WILLS - FAQs

- ◆ **Who can make a will?**
Any person who is legally competent, acting voluntarily, and is at least 18 years old.
- ◆ **I don’t own much; do I still need a will?**
You don’t need to be rich to need a will. Even small, non-taxable, estates should have a will.
- ◆ **Why do I need a will?**
A will helps you to distribute or transfer property, name a guardian for minor children, name the personal representative to handle your estate.
- ◆ **What if I die without a will?**
When you die without a will, the court appoints an administrator to handle your affairs and distribute your property according to specific “probate laws.
- ◆ **Can’t I just write out a letter saying who gets what?**
Washington has specific laws setting the requirements of a legal, valid will. An attorney will help you comply with those laws.
- ◆ **Why not use one of the “do-it-yourself” forms from the store?**
Such forms or kits may not consider your individual circumstances and relationships.

FEES

- ◆ **What is the fee for a will?**
Drafting a Will is a sometimes complex matter that requires legal knowledge, informed decision-making, and coordination with other estate planning documents. True estate planning involves more than having a will alone, we typically include other documents to complete your estate planning process:
 - Powers of Attorney
 - Community Property Agreements
 - “Living Wills” and Health Care Directives**Single Individual Fee: \$500**
Married Couple Fee: \$700
- ◆ **What is the fee for a Social Security claim?**
Social Security law dictates how much an attorney can charge for her services. The fee for representation in a Social Security disability insurance matter is 25% of your “past due benefits” when the case is won, or \$5,300 – whichever is less. Like any other legal matter, costs and expenses are separate from the attorney’s fee.
- ◆ **How will I pay the fee if I don’t have any money?**
When we win your case, the Social Security Administration will calculate the fee and automatically withhold the fee from your past due benefits check, and pay us directly.