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Enter to win a \$50 gift card by visiting our new and improved website...

Just go to our new website, click on the Facebook link at the bottom of the page, and “like” us on Facebook. Hurry, enter by May 15. Two people who “like” our page will be randomly selected to win a \$50 gift card to a store of their choice. If you have already liked our page, share one of our Facebook posts to be entered.

Information you can find on our website....

- * 13 Suggestions for Disability Claimants
- * Community Resource Handbook
- * Headache, Symptom, and Seizure journals
- * A Disability Report Appeal-Blank
- * And many other useful resources!

Did you know...

That in addition to helping the injured and ill with their disability claims, Mary Kay assists families with family law mediation. See our website for family law resources and information on mediation.

Wait time for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge grows longer...

We want to forewarn our clients who are waiting for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge that their wait is likely to become longer. Nebraska has six judges assigned to hear cases. In the past, it would take about one year from the time a hearing was requested (not from the time the case was filed) to have your ALJ hearing. This wait has now grown to approximately one and one-half years when one of our judges transferred to a different state. Due to Federal hiring freezes, getting a new judge can take some time. We have now learned that two judges that have served Nebraska for years are retiring. Judge Shattil, who serves as Chief Justice, will retire on April 30 and Judge Anderson will retire on May 30. It has been my honor and privilege to practice before these judges.

With the retirement of these two judges, Nebraska will be operating with only three of the six judicial positions filled. Currently, SSA is asking judges from other states to fill in by holding teleconference hearings on Nebraska cases. We now anticipate that most of our clients will have to wait for one and one-half to two years for their ALJ hearing, which means clients will have to wait approximately two and one-half years from the date the case was filed. There is not anything we can do to prevent the delays. The best way to make sure your case moves forward as quickly as possible is to make sure that you fill out all paperwork completely and return it to us as quickly as possible.



Mary Kay Hansen Law & Mediation, PC LLO

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Friendly reminders...

- ♣ If you change your name or address, contact our office and your local Social Security office.
- ♣ If you do not reach us by telephone when you call, please leave us a detailed message. We are often working on disability claims or on the phone with other clients or medical providers. We would like to speak to you directly, but that is not always possible.
- ♣ How to contact us:

trisha@mkhansenlaw.com

brittany@mkhansenlaw.com

karen@mkhansenlaw.com

tracy@mkhansenlaw.com

marykay@mkhansenlaw.com

402-477-0230

Trisha-Ext. 2

Brittany-Ext. 5

Karen-Ext. 1

Tracy-Ext. 3

Mary Kay-Ext. 4

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Online Social Security benefit information...

You can now easily set up a secure online *my* Social Security account. Use your *my* Social Security account to conveniently access your Social Security Statement to check your earnings and get your benefit estimates. If you currently receive benefits, you also may be able to:

- Get your benefit verification letter;
- Change your address and phone number; or
- Start or change your direct deposit.

You can create an account if you are age 18 or older, have a Social Security number and valid E-mail and mail addresses. To create an account, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. You will need to provide some personal information to verify your identity and then choose a username and password.

How can you help us...

Social Security periodically requires you to fill out forms listing all of your providers and medications you are taking. Return the forms to us immediately.

Keep a list of all your appointments so you can fill out these forms. You can get a list of your medications from your pharmacy.

There is no need to call us when you see a treatment provider. Just note the appointment on your list.

At times, there is a lot of activity on your case, and at other times there is none. We will keep you updated on important developments in your case.

Your local field office can be a valuable resource to you:

- They can tell you the status of your claim.
- Give you an estimated benefit amount and date last insured.
- Answer questions regarding Social Security Disability.
- Provide information on other agencies that may be able to assist you.
- You can request an earnings statement.

