

**Please read the back of the last copy before you complete this form.**

Name (Claimant) (Print or Type)	Social Security Number
Wage Earner (If Different)	Social Security Number

**Part I APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE**

I appoint this person, \_\_\_\_\_, (Name and Address)

to act as my representative in connection with my claim(s) or asserted right(s) under:

- Title II (RSDI)    
  Title XVI (SSI)    
  Title XVIII (Medicare Coverage)    
  Title VIII (SVB)

This person may, entirely in my place, make any request or give any notice; give or draw out evidence or information; get information; and receive any notice in connection with my pending claim(s) or asserted right(s).

I appoint, or I now have, more than one representative. My main representative is \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Principal Representative)

Signature (Claimant)	Address	
Telephone Number (with Area Code)	Fax Number (with Area Code)	Date

**Part II ACCEPTANCE OF APPOINTMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby accept the above appointment. I certify that I have not been suspended or prohibited from practice before the Social Security Administration; that I am not disqualified from representing the claimant as a current or former officer or employee of the United States; and that I will not charge or collect any fee for the representation, even if a third party will pay the fee, unless it has been approved in accordance with the laws and rules referred to on the reverse side of the representative's copy of this form. If I decide not to charge or collect a fee for the representation, I will notify the Social Security Administration. (Completion of Part III satisfies this requirement.)

Check one:  I am an attorney.      I am a non-attorney who is eligible to receive direct fee payment.  
 I am not an attorney and I am ineligible to receive direct fee payment.

I have been disbarred or suspended from a court or bar to which I was previously admitted to practice as an attorney.  YES  NO

I have been disqualified from participating in or appearing before a Federal program or agency.  YES  NO

**I declare under penalty of perjury that I have examined all the information on this form, and on any accompanying statements or forms, and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature (Representative)	Address	
Telephone Number (with Area Code)	Fax Number (with Area Code)	Date

**Part III (Optional) WAIVER OF FEE**

I waive my right to charge and collect a fee under sections 206 and 1631(d)(2) of the Social Security Act. I release my client (the claimant) from any obligations, contractual or otherwise, which may be owed to me for services I have provided in connection with my client's claim(s) or asserted right(s).

Signature (Representative)	Date
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**Part IV (Optional) WAIVER OF DIRECT PAYMENT**

**by Attorney or Non-Attorney Eligible to Receive Direct Payment**

**I waive only my right to direct payment of a fee from the withheld past-due retirement, survivors, disability insurance or supplemental security income benefits of my client (the claimant). I do not waive my right to request fee approval and to collect a fee directly from my client or a third party.**

Signature (Attorney or Eligible Non-Attorney (for Direct Payment) Representative)	Date
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# INFORMATION FOR CLAIMANTS

## What A Representative May Do

We will work directly with your appointed representative unless he or she asks us to work directly with you. Your representative may:

- o get information from your claim(s) file;
- o give us evidence or information to support your claim;
- o come with you, or for you, to any interview, conference, or hearing you have with us;
- o request a reconsideration, hearing, or Appeals Council review; and
- o help you and your witnesses prepare for a hearing and question any witnesses.

Also, your representative will receive a copy of the decision(s) we make on your claim(s). We will rely on your representative to tell you about the status of your claim(s), but you still may call or visit us for information.

You and your representative(s) are responsible for giving Social Security accurate information. It is wrong to knowingly and willingly furnish false information. Doing so may result in criminal prosecution.

We usually continue to work with your representative until (1) you tell us that he or she no longer represents you; or (2) your representative tells us that he or she is withdrawing or indicates that his or her services have ended (for example, by filing a fee petition or not pursuing an appeal). We do not continue to work with someone who is suspended or disqualified from representing claimants.

## What Your Representative(s) May Charge

Each representative you appoint can ask for a fee. To charge you a fee for services, your representative must get our approval. (Even when someone else will pay the fee for you, for example, an insurance company, your representative usually must get our approval.) One way is to file a fee petition. The other way is to file a fee agreement with us. In either case, your representative cannot charge you more than the fee amount we approve. If he or she does, promptly report this to your Social Security office.

### o Filing A Fee Petition

Your representative may ask for approval of a fee by giving us a fee petition when his or her work on your claim(s) is complete. This written request describes in detail the amount of time he or she spent on each service provided you. The request also gives the amount of the fee the representative wants to charge for these services. Your representative must give you a copy of the fee petition and each attachment. If you disagree with the information shown in the fee petition, contact your Social Security office. Please do this within 20 days of receiving your copy of the petition.

We will review the petition and consider the reasonable value of the services provided. Then we will tell you in writing the amount of the fee we approve.

## What Your Representative(s) May Charge, continued

### o Filing A Fee Agreement

If you and your representative have a written fee agreement, one of you must give it to us before we decide your claim(s). We usually will approve the agreement if you both signed it; the fee you agreed on is no more than 25 percent of past-due benefits, or \$5,300 (or a higher amount we set and announce in the Federal Register), whichever is less; we approve your claim(s); and your claim results in past-due benefits. We will tell you in writing the amount of the fee your representative can charge based on the agreement.

If we do not approve the fee agreement, we will tell you and your representative in writing. Then your representative must file a fee petition to charge and collect a fee.

After we tell you the amount of the fee your representative can charge, you or your representative can ask us to look at it again if either or both of you disagree with the amount. (If we approved a fee agreement, the person who decided your claim(s) also may ask us to lower the amount.) Someone who did not decide the amount of the fee the first time will review and finally decide the amount of the fee.

## How Much You Pay

You never owe more than the fee we approve, except for:

- o any fee a Federal court allows for your representative's services before it; and
- o out-of-pocket expenses your representative incurs or expects to incur, for example, the cost of getting your doctor's or hospital records. Our approval is not needed for such expenses.

Your representative may accept money in advance as long as he or she holds it in a trust or escrow account. If an attorney represents you and your retirement, survivors, disability insurance, or black lung claim results in past-due benefits, we usually withhold 25 percent of your past-due benefits to pay toward the fee for you.

You must pay your representative directly:

- o the rest of the fee you owe
  - if the amount of the fee is more than any amount(s) your representative held for you in a trust or escrow account and we withheld and paid your attorney for you.
- o all of the fee you owe
  - if we did not withhold past-due benefits, for example, when your representative is not an attorney or the benefits are supplemental security income; or
  - if we withheld, but later paid you the money because your attorney did not either ask for our approval until after 60 days of the date of your notice of award or tell us on time that he or she planned to ask for a fee.