

**MARZZACCO**  
*NIVEN & ASSOCIATES*  
**INJURY LAW**

# *Turn to Us*

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Recently, SSA has started offering video hearings as an alternative to the telephone hearings that have been taking place during the COVID 19 pandemic. These video hearings are done through Microsoft Teams and allow for Claimants to have a face-to-face hearing with the ALJ deciding their case.

Our office has been participating in these video hearings since June of 2021. There are two different ways that these hearings can be conducted. The Claimant can come into our office and participate in the hearing with their attorney. Our office has conference rooms that are set up for these types of hearings. The second option allows for the Claimant to stay at their home for their hearing as long as they have access to the appropriate devices necessary for a video hearing. If the Claimant opts to stay at their home for the hearing, the attorney will participate in the video hearing from the office. The telephone hearing option

also remains for Claimants that do not wish to proceed with the video hearing.

Our attorneys have participated in many hearings conducted in all the ways mentioned above. The phone hearings have been successful, but we are happy that there is now an option to allow for face-to-face interaction. The video hearings, for the most part, have gone well, with minor technological glitches and errors. We anticipate all the errors we've experienced up to this point will be worked out as the video hearings become more of the norm.

At this point, our attorneys are prepared to participate in the hearings by video or by telephone. Both options have resulted in successful results. The main concern in determining which option to proceed with depends on the individual Claimant's preference and comfort with the technologies available.