

12/04/04

Thanks Barbara for your compassion and persistence in this matter. I first met Barbara at a Lupus Support meeting in November, 2004 during her presentation on SSA disability. At that time I was waiting to attend a hearing for approval/denial on 12/2/04. Sitting in the church auditorium (where the meeting was held) listening to Barbara and sifting through her packet I realized I needed to be more aggressive with obtaining information for my case. I made Barbara a Representative on my behalf. We spoke briefly at the meeting, I filled out authorizations forms from her web site, we had a phone meeting. Then she and I pursued the doctors and Cedar-Sinai clinic for more pertinent and necessary information. I used the standard letter from Compassion In Action – USA's Disability Training package and took it to my Rheumatologist, she scanned over it and immediately understood what I needed. She did write the letter to SSA based on Compassion's format. I got my laboratory reports, Imaging reports, doctors progress notes, pulmonary function tests between 11/04 and 12/1. My advocate faxed the information to the SSA hearing and appeals office for review previous to our meeting. On the day of the hearing the Appeals Law Judge read the doctor's letter at his hearing and concurred my case was approved, there was no need for a hearing, and apologized that he was just reading the letter (the letter was not filed in my folder until that day). In other words, if he had read it sooner there would not have been a hearing. Thank God my case was approved. Today is 12/4/04, it was almost 12 months from the date I filed. Thank you Compassion for helping me to resolve this most tenuous matter.

Cheryl