

SAMPLE Disability Letter

Date

From (your address, or address of anyone who is helping you)

Re: Adhesion Related Disease (ARD)

To: (Benefits office)

Department of Veterans Affairs

Re: Disability – Jane Doe

I am the Outreach Patient Advocate for the International Adhesion Society and have been assisting Jane with her medical and physical needs since she started to suffer disabling symptoms in 1991!

I have responded to these updates previously and I understand the necessity of such updates. I will tell you this regarding your Veteran, Jane Doe and any future changes in her health situation. Jane will probably die before she is able to secure any type of medical intervention that will save her life, even at this stage. There is no known procedure that can abort the debilitating physical deterioration that Jane is experiencing!

I invite you to forward these questionnaires to me as timely as necessary for your reviews of the disability claims of veterans...but I also want you to take a good look at these pictures of Jane. Veteran of the United States of America, and know that this is one veteran who is most deserved of our country's financial and medical support!

My observations of Jane's symptoms/condition:

Jane was seeking medical intervention from a wide variety of medical care providers for urinary bladder pain and incontinency. She had non specific abdominal/pelvic pain which did not respond to treatment by any of the physicians she sought treatment from. Dates of medical visits are far too numerous to track as Jane was presenting to medical appointments with doctors, to medical centers for diagnostic testing and treatment attempts as well as surgical intervention. All this was unproductive in offering her any relief from her abdominal/pelvic pain, urinary incontinency, gastro-esophageal reflux disease, nausea, vomiting and fatigue.

Specific months, days and years are all one as for Jane, her life is in constant need of medical intervention, her symptoms only increase in severity as time and lack of medical intervention, goes on for her. It is almost ludicrous for you to be requesting information such as this, when all it would take is to look at Jane's photos and ask yourself who would or could employ her?

Her symptoms of chronic abdominal/pelvis pain increase over time, little effective relief has been found for that symptom, her nausea and GERD increased due to medications prescribed for her pain and her associated symptoms of urinary bladder and intestinal difficulties became worse as she then started fecal incontinence following a surgery and that is now irreversible! Jane lives with these symptoms with no site of effective medical intervention in site for her.

If you request, I can again forward the majority of Jane's medical records, if you have a file cabinet large enough to hold them! Be assured that I will forward them upon request.

The level of severity of Jane's medical symptoms as well as her medical symptoms themselves increase each year. She eventually lost use of her urinary bladder and it being surgically removed has caused her to live with a urostomy through her abdomen. The urostomy continues to plague Jane yet today as it does not function properly due to a surgical intervention that was performed to relieve her chronic abdominal pain. This surgery resulted in the formation of post surgical adhesions to form around her ureters rendering one ureter useless and creating a new medical condition called, "Nepheritis." This condition causes cessation of her ability to urinate via the urostomy and the urine backflows into her kidneys causing chronic urosepsis! This infection of her kidneys frequently places Jane in a special sterile unit in the local medical center for very high doses of antibiotic IV therapy. This condition also renders her susceptible to infections from others so she cannot be exposed to visitors while in the hospital, at times up to three weeks in patient.

Jane has undergone 26 laporotomies due to her chronic abdominal/pelvic pain, and as a result of those surgeries, Jane lost her urinary bladder, her reproductive organs, her gall bladder and her appendix! Jane has also had the pleasure of undergoing several intestinal repairs due to her intestines being sliced through during a surgery to help relieve her chronic abdominal/pelvic pain!

Jane not only has the medical conditions mentioned above, but she now suffers with multiple hernia's of her rectus muscle. These massive hernias have caused her intestines to prolapsed out of her urostomy opening (os) and are lying against the skin of her abdomen as there is no rectus muscle left from the surgeries that were meant to repair the hernias! Jane can no longer fit an ostomy urine collection bag over her urostomy due to these intestinal protrusions causing an ill fit for the bags and she has had to resort to taping Kotex napkins over the os to catch the urine.

My observations of Jane's moods, when and where..:

Jane tries very hard to face each day, but it is a very difficulty thing for her to do even when she wish's to socialize. Jane leaks urine when she stands or walks, she has to at time carry a urine bag around if she can utilize an indweeling catheter in the os of the urostomy, thus allowing her to urinate into the bag and forgo the taping of the Kotex over her ostomy site. There is an offensive order that surrounds conditions such as hers, and she is aware of that existing. She is very hesitant to socialize, which she doesn't do much of at all. Jane is anti social, but who wouldn't be. Times and dates again.. how about this: Everyday, everywhere and all the time Jane lives like this. And she handles it the best she can.

I see her cry, I see her loneliness, she has very few friends, near non to be exact. She has no male companionship, which is two fold in her life. She is unwilling to have male companionship due to a fear of presenting herself as she appears, I only assume that of course. She appears to have no desire for male companionship at all. I have noticed that a male friend does call her now and then, and he is kind and compassionate, but Jane has always and continues to refuse to see him.

Jane is a kind, caring person, she is willing to try to do things, but her stamina to even take a slow walk is waning due to her chronic pain and suffering of so many medical problems and symptoms as a result of so many surgeries and her chronic kidney infections, so many things now.

I have been present to observe the veterans moods, conduct or behavior.

My relationship with the veteran:

I accompany Jane to her medical appointment's I will take Jane for a ride now and then. I assist her with her household chores when I can, I shop for her or assist her in her shopping needs. I visit her, I talk to her, I offer her support. I fight for her medical needs. I see Jane almost everyday. I help her to rest on my couch, I cover her with my blankets and I will sit with her in a restaurant not minding how she looks or smells!

Expert witness qualifications:

(See attached)

I am not of any military service nor have ever been associated with any military services.

I am validating my statements regarding the serious nature of Jane's physical condition at this time by the use of photos I took of her on April 16, 2001 while hospitalized for urosepsis. Everything I have stated in this communication regarding Jane's physical, emotional and psychological presentations at this time are fact and there is no one who can prove other wise .

Feel free to contact me in the event you would like further information, validation or my opinion of Jane's medical needs.

Respectfully yours,

Patient or Patient Advocate