

## **Lay and Medical Statements**

A lay statement should include the name and phone number of the individual making it. Also, the name and relationship of the individual making it. If the person making it has a background in the medical field (therapy, nurse, doctor, caregiver), include this as well. For a parent making a statement, include your role in caring for the individual.

A valuable lay statement can be hand written or typed and should be limited to about one page in total, but can be as little as a paragraph or few sentences. It should be in the words of the individual making the statement as an accounting of their eye-witness experience. For instance, if a seizure is witnessed, it should include information such as duration & frequency (if applicable). It should include a description of the seizure and what occurred after.

Especially critical to the determination of disability in children's cases are written statements from daycare providers, doctors, and teachers, as well as testimony from parents/guardians.

In addition to lay statements, you may wish to coordinate with medical staff to obtain written medical opinion of limitations.

A good statement includes:

1. Credentials of author (if a medical or vocational statement)
2. Nature and duration of relationship between author the claimant
3. Nature of impairments suffered by the claimant
4. Symptoms of claimant's impairments (as observed)
5. Functional limitations caused by those symptoms (detailed examples) and supported with examination findings
6. Elements of the applicable Listing that are met
7. Author's signature, contact information and Date of statement.