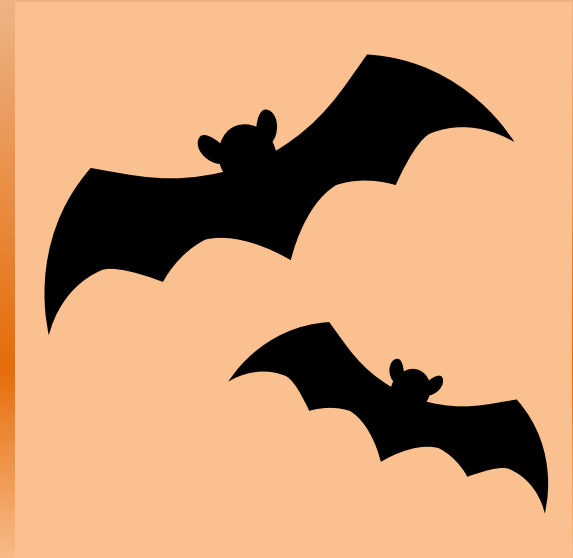


# October 19, 2022

## HDAP Ask an Attorney Monthly Meeting

### Agenda:

- Focus Topic of the Month: Scary Good Advocacy – How to Start the Adult Function Report Right!
- Open Question & Answer
- Reminder: Benefits Helpline!

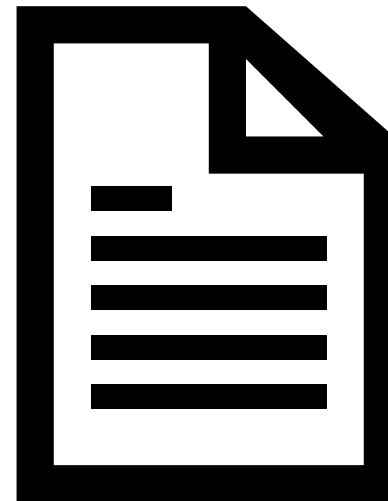


**CHANGEWELLPROJECT**  
PARTNERING TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY SYSTEMS

## Focus Topic of the Month:

# Starting off the Adult Function Report Right

1. Tips & Tricks for Crafting a Strong Narrative
2. Examples: Question 5
3. Examples: Question 6



# Tips for Writing Answers on the Adult Function Report

- **Write in the Client's voice**
  - Use the first person / "I" statements
  - Avoid medical or legal jargon (e.g. "take care of myself" instead of "complete ADLs")
- **Edit the Client's responses**
  - Emphasize client's limitations and bad days
  - Focus on Client's disability, not just what is bothering them in the interview
  - Fill in answers with details from medical records or summaries
- **Be specific and accurate**
  - Use examples of client's limitations
  - Give a complete picture of client's day-to-day life.

## 5. How do your illnesses, injuries, or conditions limit your ability to work?

- **Focus on work related limitations**
  - **Mental functions: follow directions, get along w/ others, concentrate**
  - **Physical functions: sit, stand, lift, reach, and energy throughout the day**
- **Give examples of things client struggles with**
- **Highlight client's worse days, rather than better days**

## 5. How do your illnesses, injuries, or conditions limit your ability to work?

### Client Profile

Diagnosis: Severe osteoarthritis of the hip

Exertional Limit: No more than sedentary work

Constant pain in my right hip
Can't stand for an extended period of time
Can't walk long distances
Can't sit down for an extended period of time

## 5. How do your illnesses, injuries, or conditions limit your ability to work?

### Client Profile

Diagnosis: Severe osteoarthritis of the hip

Exertional Limit: No more than sedentary work

I experience constant pain in my hip all day. I cannot stand, sit, or stay in any one position for extended periods of time. If I sit too long, I will be in extreme pain and unable to focus on anything. I have difficulty walking on my own, and use a cane. Even with my cane, I get very tired easily and can only walk a block or so. The constant pain makes it difficult to follow instructions or relate to other people. I wish I could sleep more, but pain interferes with that too.

# 5. How do your illnesses, injuries, or conditions limit your ability to work?

## Client Profile

Diagnosis: Schizoaffective disorder

Listing: 12.03

Experiences high levels of paranoia, responds outwardly to internal stimuli, unable to maintain focus for longer than 30 seconds, delusions of grandeur, audio and visual hallucinations that include angels and other religious figures, unable to have appropriate social interactions, aggressive behavior toward nurses, does not groom self.

# 5. How do your illnesses, injuries, or conditions limit your ability to work?

## Client Profile

Diagnosis: Schizoaffective disorder

Listing: 12.03

I am often paranoid, and cannot interact normally with other people. I believe people are out to get me and I have issues trusting nurses and medical staff when they poke and prod at me. I feel like I am constantly in danger. I see angels throughout the day, and get messages from them. I do not like when other people tell me what to do because it always conflicts with what the angels tell me. I do not like being around people generally. I do not shower very often because I am always on the move to stay safe.



## 6. Describe what you do from the time you wake up until going to bed

- **Give a general idea of how client's disability interferes with a normal day**
  - **How does the client feel throughout the day? In pain? Sad? Tired?**
  - **Note where it takes more time or energy to do something.**
- **Be as specific as possible, include examples and explanatories**
- **Highlight client's worse days, rather than better days**

## 6. Describe what you do from the time you wake up until going to bed

### Client Profile

Diagnosis: Severe osteoarthritis of the hip

Exertional Limit: No more than sedentary work

I wake up around 10am but I do not really do anything. I am in constant pain and cannot move around easily. I take my medicine in the morning and mostly watch TV unless I have an appointment or something else to do.

# 6. Describe what you do from the time you wake up until going to bed

## Client Profile

Diagnosis: Severe osteoarthritis of the hip

Exertional Limit: No more than sedentary work

I wake up around 10am, usually because I had trouble sleeping the night before due to constant pain. I do not move around well, and try not to do much unless I have an appointment to go to. If I need to leave the house, I try to get up earlier to spend extra time getting dressed and ready to be picked up. Otherwise I mostly watch TV, but usually something light like game shows because the pain and my medication make it difficult to follow anything too complicated. I try to sleep by 10pm, but am usually up later due to pain.

## 6. Describe what you do from the time you wake up until going to bed

### Client Profile

Diagnosis: Schizoaffective disorder

Listing: 12.03

Client spends most of the day in bed, trying to avoid conflict or interacting with others. Client reports being a night person and enjoying walks and riding the train when few other people are out. Client's sleep is erratic and impacted by auditory hallucinations.

## 6. Describe what you do from the time you wake up until going to bed

### Client Profile

Diagnosis: Schizoaffective disorder

Listing: 12.03

I wake up at a different time most days, and try to spend as much of the day in my room avoiding people. I like being out at night when less people are around. Sometimes I stay up all night because I am hearing voices that tell me I should not sleep, otherwise I try to go to bed by midnight. I like to ride the train at night because nobody is on it and the sounds it makes help me block out other voices. I go to doctor's appointments when I need to, but they do not always go well because I think the nurses are threatening me.



## Questions about writing client narratives?

**Please identify yourself: name, county, program**

**Do NOT identify the client: no full names or identifying health info**

**Remember: This is a judgment free zone, there are no bad questions!**





## General Questions!

**Please identify yourself: name, county, program**

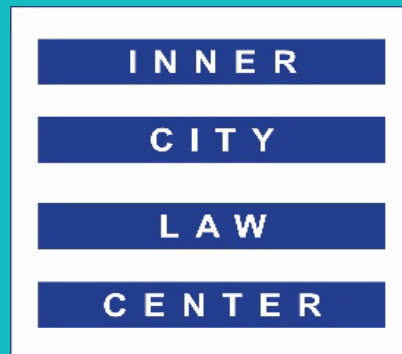
**Do NOT identify the client: no full names or identifying health info**

**Remember: This is a judgment free zone, there are no bad questions!**



# Asking for Help

ICLC is here to help with your specific questions about SSI/SSDI and CAPI Benefits Advocacy.



Please visit:

<http://www.changewellproject.com/benefits-helpline>



# Next Month

Next Month:

November 16, 2022 at 2:00 pm

Green Card Casserole – A  
History of the Green Card



*Thank you and see you next week!*