



SOARing Together
Series 2: Letter 1 2021
ssa-3288, Release of Information Form

Happy New Year SOAR Team!!!

We have all heard the saying “A picture is worth a thousand words”. Well, this same concept can be applied when using ssa-3288, Release of Information form. Once signed and submitted to local SSA office, this one form can give you vital and detailed information concerning your client’s past benefits applications, their work history, what benefits are available to them, what they wore on the first day of Kindergarten!!!! Ok, maybe not the latter, but I hope I made the point...this form is very valuable in getting so much information to use for SOAR claim.

The ssa-3288 is key to unlocking several areas when you first begin working with a client. For example, If you are working with client that has past denials, find out why those claims were denied, you can request the most recent denial letter which will explain reason for denial. Having that information will help you submit a quality new claim. If denial was for medical reasons, you can emphasize and add more details on that specific disability; focus on a new diagnosis if there is one; compare old medical records to new ones showing the decline of illness and approach functioning level in a new way.

Does your claim seem to be pending forever, lost, not moving? There are different reasons why a case is pending for an extended time. Some include missing information, unable to reach the client, not going to the proper field office/DDD unit, delay of scheduled CE, etc. With authorization of representative and the 3288, you will have access to knowing where the claim has stalled. The ssa-3288 will also supply you with a work history report. Having work history from Social Security is a backup to completing the ssa-3396 Work History form, especially if client is unsure of past work. If you are taking over on a claim still in process or wanting to check on existing claim for client this form will allow you to get information on that application as well.

These are just a small example of the information available to you with the ssa-3288. You have probably notice that many areas of the SOAR process go hand in hand, having a signed ssa-3288, having good rapport with local office, utilizing and visiting SOARWorks website often. This is to ensure that as certified specialists we are producing the best SOAR applications possible. And if by chance you do need to know what client wore to Kindergarten...with signed 3288, I bet SSA could get that information too!!

“The courage to SOAR to great heights is inside all of us.”
-Kerri Strug, American Olympic Gold Medal Gymnast

SOARing Together,
Candace



175 South Third Street, Suite 580, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Ph.: 614.280.1984 Fax: 614.463.1060
www.cohhio.org



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