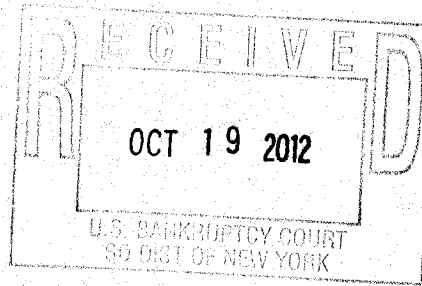


The Honorable Shelley C. Chapman
One Bowling Green
Courtroom 521
New York, New York 10004-1408



Dear Judge Chapman:

I am writing in regard to my mother, Mrs. Vonda Freeman. My father was a coal miner for over forty years and my mother is receiving medical benefits as his survivor. She is 89 years old and actually in quite good health for her age but, she is struggling with some memory issues. It is very unsettling to think what lies ahead with regard to her care. She gets very distraught at times and can't remember what happened for the last few days. At the present she is living by herself, but my family and I may have to make some decisions before long as to how to manage her day to day care. She would not cope well with change if we had to remove her from her familiar surroundings. If her medical benefits were no longer paying her medical bills there is no way she could afford to remain in her own home. This would be devastating to her well being. Home is the only place she really feels safe and comfortable.

My father passed away in 1995 with cancer. He passed knowing my mother had benefits that would take care of her for the rest of her days. The fact that those benefits are in jeopardy is appalling. My father worked very hard for those benefits and to take them away in my Mom's time of need would be unconscionable.

Please make a fair and just ruling and help those recipients such as my Mother retain the benefits they are presently receiving.

Sincerely,

Paulette Freeman Trimble