

Casework and Legal Services

The following information explains our office's role in helping to resolve constituents' problems with federal agencies, and how we work with attorneys to achieve that goal.

Legal Advice

The Office of Congressman Brad Sherman is not a law firm. **We cannot provide you with legal advice, nor can we substitute for a qualified attorney in any field of law.** We strongly advise you to consult an attorney about your problem in situations where the outcome can have a significant effect on your health, finances, immigration status, or that of a family member.

Most important problems will benefit from the advice of a qualified attorney in addition to the assistance we can provide. Some problems can *only* be resolved with assistance from an attorney. We find that we can be most effective in resolving problems when we work in conjunction with your attorney to find the best solution.

If you have an attorney, please be sure to include the attorney's name and contact information on your Constituent Assistance Form. If you would like help finding an attorney, we can provide you information on how to find a qualified attorney through the Los Angeles County Bar Association and the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. If you cannot afford a private attorney, we can provide you with a referral to non-profit organizations that provide free or low-cost legal assistance to individuals with low incomes.

How We Can Help

We have helped thousands of Valley residents resolve problems with federal agencies. We assist our constituents by bringing their concerns to the attention of Congressional Liaisons within federal agencies. Working with those liaisons, we can perform actions such as requesting information or status reports, urging prompt consideration of a matter based on the merits of the case, requesting review or reconsideration of a matter based on law or regulations, and facilitating communication between the constituent and the agency. We are most effective at resolving problems that arise from administrative errors and delays.

Certain rules, regulations, and laws establish limits about the help we can provide. We cannot instruct a government agency to reach a particular conclusion. Nor can we instruct a government agency to ignore the applicable law and regulations. We cannot intervene in or influence the outcome of cases that are under the jurisdiction of any court. We are also unable to intervene in matters under the jurisdiction of city, county, or state governments.

Privacy Waiver

We may need to reveal aspects of your matter in order to have the best chance to resolve your case effectively, to keep informed any advisor with whom you have put us in contact or who contacts us on your behalf, or to respond to press inquiries. You hereby authorize us to release information in the foregoing circumstances.

Acknowledged and received:

Constituent Signature

Date