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This chapter contains federal statutes and VA regulations that we think are pertinent to the representation of veterans for initial claims. There are certainly other statutes or regulations that we have left out that may pertain. Our intent here is to give our readers enough information to interpret on their own how Congress views the participation of representatives in the claims process. We also include two letters from VA that help clarify these issues. Here is our list of citations:

- 38 CFR § 14.627 Definitions. As used in regulations on representation of Department of Veterans Affairs Claimants.
- 38 USC Section 5901. Prohibition against acting as claims agent or attorney
- 38 USC Section 5902. Recognition of representatives of organizations
- 38 USC Section 5903. Recognition with respect to particular claims
- 38 USC Section 5904. Recognition of agents and attorneys generally
- 38 USC Section 5905. Penalty for certain acts
- 38 USC Title V Chapter 5 § 500. Administrative practice; general provisions.
- 38 CFR § 14.628 Recognition of organizations.
- 38 CFR § 14.629 Requirements for accreditation of service organization representatives; agents; and attorneys.
- 38 CFR § 14.630 Authorization for a particular claim.
- 38 CFR § 14.631 Powers of attorney.
- 38 CFR § 14.632 Determination of qualifications.
- 38 CFR § 14.633 Termination of accreditation of agents, attorneys, and representatives.
- 38 CFR § 14.634 Banks or trust companies acting as guardians.
- 38 CFR Sec. 20.609 Rule 609. Payment of representative's fees in proceedings before Department of Veterans Affairs field personnel and before the Board of Veterans' Appeals.
- CFR Sec. 20.603 Rule 603. Representation by attorneys-at-law.
- 38 CFR Sec. 20.604 Rule 604. Representation by agents.
- Letter from Bradley G. Mayes, Acting Director of the Veterans Benefits Administration, dated January 3, 2007
- Letter from VA General Counsel, Tim McClain to Congressman Lane Evans, dated May 24, 2004
- Scope of Authority Vested in Party Holding VA Power of Attorney

Forms

VA Form 21-526 -- Veteran's Application for Compensation and/or Pension, Parts A,B,C, & D

VA Form 21-534 -- Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child (Including Death Compensation If Applicable)

SF 180 -- Request Pertaining to Military Records (Used to obtain discharge record)

VA Form 21-22a -- Appointment of Individual as Claimant's Representative (POA for claim)

VA Form 21-0779 -- Request for Nursing Home Information in Connection with Claim for Aid and Attendance

VA Form 10-10EZ -- Application for Health Benefits (Veterans receiving pension are guaranteed health benefits without copayment)

VA Form 10-0103 -- Veteran's Application for Assistance In Acquiring Home Improvement and Structural Alterations (HISA)

Form 1 -- Statement of Attending Physician (Used to determine rating for A&A or HB)

Form 2 -- Care Provider Report (Used to provide evidence of recurring medical expenses)

Form 3 -- Health Insurance Premiums (Used to provide evidence of recurring medical expenses)

Form 4 -- Claimant's Certification (verifies out-of-pocket costs for unreimbursed medical expenses)

Other Support Material

Pension Rates for 2007

Screenshot of Software Entry Page

Software Installation Instructions

Software Usage Instructions

Worksheet for Software

Steps in Making a Claim

Software CD also includes an Excel version of the worksheet and copies of all of the forms