

Course Syllabus

VA CLE – Description and Outline

Title: “Veterans Law & Claims Procedures for Maintaining VA Accreditation.”

Description of the Course:

This 3-hour self-study course is designed for VA agents and attorneys to meet mandated CLE requirements outlined in 38 C.F.R. § 14.629(b) for maintaining accreditation. This course satisfies first year CLE requirements and any ongoing CLE on veterans law and procedures required every two years thereafter. The course is taught by 2 Department of Veterans Affairs authorized accredited agents who have many years of experience in filing claims for veterans benefits.

The course consists of the following:

- A **video presentation** of over 120 narrated slides (flash drive and online), consisting of 5 modules with a total seat time of 3 hours and 1 minute
- A **506 -page textbook** entitled “How to Apply for Department for Veterans Affairs Benefits for Veterans and Their Survivors”
- A **Claims Support Flash Drive** with over 240 claim forms, support forms, reports, questionnaires and adjudication instructions for completing every variety of disability claims for veterans and their survivors
- A **Certificate of Completion** received only upon participant submission of all correct multiple training code numbers embedded in the video presentation. This is to verify the participant has viewed the presentation in its entirety

Outline:

Instructions - Submitting Course Completion to VA (7:54 minutes)

- Contents
- Certifying Completion
- State Bar Credit
- Keeping Track of Future CLE Requirements

Module 1 – Representation before VA (15:24 minutes)

- Your Obligations as an Accredited Representative
- Charging Fees for Assistance with Claims
- Fees for Assistance after a Notice of Decision
- Pre-filing Consultations

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Module 2 – Disability Compensation and How to Apply (59:46 minutes)

- Rules for Establishing Service Connection
- Understanding Disability Ratings
- Aid and Attendance and Housebound Ratings
- Special Monthly Compensation
- Special Benefits
- Examples of Establishing Service Connection
- Case Studies

Module 3 DIC and How to Apply (19:25 minutes)

- Entitlement to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation
- DIC Rate Table
- DIC Granted Automatically
- When DIC is not Automatic
- Aid and Attendance or Housebound Allowances
- Sample Case

Module 4 – Understanding VA Pension, Survivor Pension, and How to Apply (47:23 minutes)

- Eligibility for VA Pension and Survivors Pension
- Income and Net Worth Limits
- Aid and Attendance and Housebound Ratings
- Deducting Unreimbursed Medical and Care Expenses
- VA's 36-month Look Back and Asset Transfers
- Case Studies
- What if a Claimant Dies before a Decision is Made
- How to Apply and When to Update VA

Module 5 – The Modernized Review System (39:31 minutes)

- Initial, Original and Supplemental Claims
- Higher-Level Review
- Board of Veterans Appeals
- Legacy Claims and Appeals
- Legacy Appeals Rules
- DIC Case Study Illustrating All 3 Options under the New System