

Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP)

Present system: Legacy- one lane= VERY SLOW= 6-9 years average

New system: RAMP- VA hopes to have fully implemented by February 2019.

Three lanes= much FASTER decisions=120 days

Old System: 1. file claim

2. rating decision- legal jargon hard to understand
3. NOD
4. SOC (Form 9) **Question** ???? Should I or should I not?
5. SSOC (additional evidence)
6. Goes to BVA: A) Remand B) Grant C) Deny
7. Court of Appeals
8. Federal Court
9. Supreme Court

New System: 1. File claim

2. rating decision-**Enhancement Notice:** 1 year to respond.

a) what veteran has done correctly.

b) what specific information or evidence the veteran
needs to provide for a favorable outcome.

3. If denied, you have 3 choices or 3 lanes to choose from:

a) Higher Level Review Lane- ONLY EVIDENCE ALREADY SUBMITTED
results in new decision

b) Supplemental Claim Lane- if you have or need new evidence. VA
looks at the evidence and issues a decision.

c) NOD Lane- lengthy process is “removed”. No “statement of the case” needs to be submitted. Goes straight to BVA

If BVA rules unfavorably , and you gather new evidence, you can go back into the Supplemental Claim Lane and your effective date remains the same.

If you submit a fully developed claim and you choose the Higher Level Review Lane, you could have a decision within 120 days.

MAJOR CONSIDERATION: If you decide to go from Legacy to RAMP and then change your mind, you CANNOT go back to Legacy.

ALSO: AT THIS TIME, the NOD lane is not opened. Will not be an option until Feb. 2019.
***** No “face to face”

Who was chosen to opt in? Those who have been waiting the longest=Form 9, SSOCs

General Information: 1. 20,000 initially asked to opt in. 3% chose to do so.

(“fear of the unknown” or “leap of faith”)

2. 2/3s chose Higher Level Review; 1/3 chose Supplemental

3. Legacy grant rate=25%; RAMP grant rate=61%*** **Full vs. Non-compensable**

4. First 2 lanes are decided at the Regional level. 3rd lane, when opened, will be decided by the BVA. Historically, the Board does a better job of rendering favorable decisions.

5. VA has hired 250 more staff attorneys and 40 Veteran Law Judges

6. **1.2 million claims are filed a year; approximately 420,000 appeal.**

7. If your case has been **certified and ACTIVATED** by the board, you will not be invited to join. Certified? Call BVA and ask.

8. FLUID!!!

AS OF APRIL 1, anyone, other than those already certified and activated, can opt in if they so desire without receiving an “opt in” letter. VISIT TVC REGIONAL= “BAR” LETTER!!!

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Resources:

Veterans Administration: www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/appeals-ramp.asp

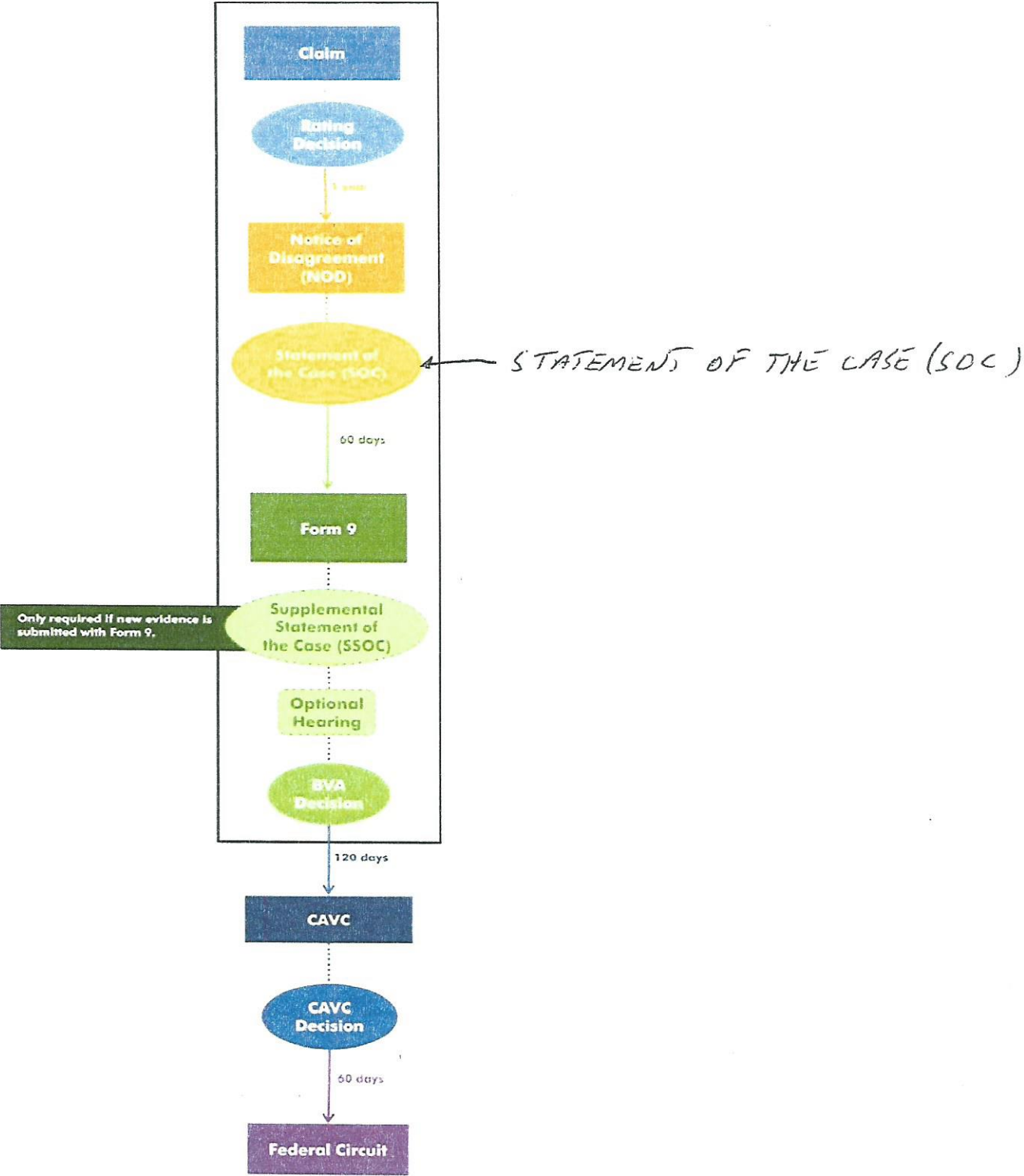
Chisholm, Chisholm, Kilpatrick Law:

<https://cck-law.com/news/rapid-appeals-modernization>

Veterans Law Group: www.veteranslaw.com

YouTube: type in the search box VA RAMP

LEGACY APPEALS



APPEALS REFORM

