

Department of Veterans Affairs

§ 20.1501

1404(b)(§20.1404(b)), or Rule 1404(f)(§20.1404(f)), or a referral under Rule 1405(e) is not a final decision of the Board.

(c) Once there is a final decision on a motion under this subpart relating to a prior Board decision on an issue, that prior Board decision on that issue is no longer subject to revision on the grounds of clear and unmistakable error. Subsequent motions relating to that prior Board decision on that issue shall be dismissed with prejudice.

(d) Chapter 72 of title 38, United States Code (relating to judicial review), applies with respect to final decisions on motions filed by a party or initiated by the Board pursuant to this subpart.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501(a); Pub. L. 105-111)

[64 FR 2139, Jan. 13, 1999, as amended at 66 FR 35903, July 10, 2001]

§ 20.1410 Rule 1410. Stays pending court action.

The Board will stay its consideration of a motion under this subpart upon receiving notice that the Board decision that is the subject of the motion has been appealed to a court of competent jurisdiction until the appeal has been concluded or the court has issued an order permitting, or directing, the Board to proceed with the motion.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501(a))

§ 20.1411 Rule 1411. Relationship to other statutes.

(a) The “benefit of the doubt” rule of 38 U.S.C. 5107(b) does not apply to the Board’s decision, on a motion under this subpart, as to whether there was clear and unmistakable error in a prior Board decision.

(b) A motion under this subpart is not a claim subject to reopening under 38 U.S.C. 5108 (relating to reopening claims on the grounds of new and material evidence).

(c) A motion under this subpart is not an application for benefits subject to any duty associated with 38 U.S.C. 5103(a) (relating to applications for benefits).

(d) A motion under this subpart is not a claim for benefits subject to the requirements and duties associated with 38 U.S.C. 5107(a) (requiring “well-

grounded” claims and imposing a duty to assist).

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501(a))

Subpart P—Expedited Claims Adjudication Initiative—Pilot Program

SOURCE: 73 FR 65732, Nov. 5, 2008, unless otherwise noted.

§ 20.1500 Rule 1500. Expedited Claims Adjudication Initiative.

(a) *Purpose.* The Expedited Claims Adjudication Initiative is a pilot program designed to streamline the claims adjudication and appeals process. This subpart establishes procedures governing this Initiative.

(b) *Outline of Initiative.* This Initiative allows eligible claimants to voluntarily participate in an alternative claims adjudication program as set forth in this subpart, which is predicated on the claimant’s waiver of certain identified statutory and regulatory time limits, procedural rights, and processing issues that may arise.

(c) *Scope.* Except as specifically provided in this subpart, claims processed under this Initiative will be adjudicated according to the procedures outlined in part 3 of this chapter, and appeals will be processed according to the Appeals Regulations and Rules of Practice, as outlined in parts 19 and 20 of this chapter. Any matter not otherwise covered by this subpart will be governed by existing rules in this title.

(d) *Duration.* The Secretary will accept an executed Agreement and Waiver of Rights as provided in §20.1503 of this part for a period not to exceed 2 years from December 5, 2008.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501(a))

§ 20.1501 Rule 1501. Definitions.

For purposes of this subpart, the following definitions apply:

(a) *Initiative* means the Expedited Claims Adjudication Initiative as promulgated by this subpart.

(b) *Participant* means any eligible claimant who elects to participate in the Initiative by executing, with his or her representative, an Expedited