Attention to All Veterans

"It is important to know that **VA-recognized VSOs**, and their representatives, always provide their services on benefit claims **free-of-charge**. Unlike VSOs, VA-accredited attorneys and agents may charge you a fee for their representation in appealing or requesting additional review of an adverse VA decision. Only VA-accredited attorneys and claims agents may charge you fees for assisting in a claim for VA benefits, and only after VA has issued an initial decision on the claim and they have complied with the power-of-attorney and the fee agreement requirements." https://www.benefits.va.gov/vso/

Be aware of Civilian Attorney groups such as, but not limited to: "Patriot Angels" or "Veterans Claim Assistants," etc.... that will charge for their service and require you to sign a "Fee Agreement" sheet which permits the attorney to collect a percentage of your claims even if you revoke their Power of Attorney and utilize another representative. The Civilian Attorney groups will also apply charges per "Page" which they complete, print, or submit on your behalf. The Civilian Attorney groups will also ensure at time of your initial meeting you sign documentation that grants them to their payment from your claims be withdrawn automatically before your claim is deposited into your account.

If you have signed Power of Attorney & Fee Agreement sheet with a Civilian Attorney you may not be eligible to seek representation from your local Veteran Service Officer because of legal binding agreements with that Civilian Attorney. A signed agreement with a Civilian Attorney cannot be revoked by a local VSO so it is important that a Veteran seeks help/assistance from their Local VSO before signing agreements with Civilian Attorney groups.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your representation, claims, and/or appeals within Veterans Affairs Benefits please contact our office.

Jackson County Veterans Services Office

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