

“WARNING”

In many cases, we have seen no Statement of case prepared for most hearings.

- Veterans should ensure that their Advocates at Veterans Affairs are doing their job in representing the Veteran. **(should be same as civilian lawyers).**
- Make sure you see and read any Statement of case or Statements presented on your behalf in writing. **(most cases there is nothing in writing)**
- Make sure that you have been briefed and given a copy of all information that is passed to the Pension system prior to the hearing date. **(not being done)**
- Always ask for a copy of your audio transcript, so you are able to go over what your Advocate has said on your behalf. **(they will tell you to go through the privacy act)**
- Take note that most first claims are denied. **(discouragement)**
- It is most important that you do not give all of your evidence, for your first hearing. **(you can't use your evidence twice)**
- When you seek to appeal after your first denial, you must show new evidence for the next hearing. **(only new evidence will be heard)**
- By refusing your first claim, they will indeed suppress your evidence.
- Ask to see what research, has been done by your Advocate on your behalf, you may be in for a big surprise, **(most cases there is none, they do not conduct themselves like civilian lawyers)**
- In most of the cases we have seen Veterans Affairs Advocates, do not give copies of anything to you, the claimant, until after the fact. **(they just wing everything as they go.)**
- Were you represented in a professional manner, go back and ask for these basic items, which your Advocate **(lawyer)** from Veterans Affairs should have done.
- If you feel your case had not been handled in a professional manner, we would suggest you contact the Minister of Veterans Affairs or the new Veterans Ombudsman and ask why.

Concerned Veterans