



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

Accreditation & Discipline (022D)  
Office of General Counsel

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Washington, DC 20420  
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April 15, 2019

In Reply Refer To:  
022D-75634

(b)(6)

Dear (b)(6)

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has received information that (b)(6) (b)(6) may be engaged in illegal activities, which include the unauthorized representation of claimants for VA benefits and charging them for your services. The purpose of this letter is to provide you notice of the law and the opportunity to respond before we take further action.

Chapter 59 of title 38, United States Code, and sections 14.626-14.637 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, govern the representation of claimants seeking VA benefits. The purpose in regulating who may provide claims assistance to Veterans is to ensure that they "have responsible, qualified representation in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims for veterans' benefits." 38 C.F.R. § 14.626.

Under 38 U.S.C. § 5902, VA is authorized to recognize organizations to assist claimants with their VA benefit claims. VA regulations require organizations to apply for VA recognition, demonstrate that the organization satisfies the legal requirements for recognition, and then certify to VA that each of the organization's representatives who will assist Veterans in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims before VA meets the legal requirements for accreditation. 38 C.F.R. § 14.628(d)(1)(i). Please note that one of the requirements for recognition is that the primary purpose of the organization must be to serve veterans. In determining whether this primary purpose exists, the Secretary takes into account, and weighs, all of the organization's activities including other possible business interests. Our records indicate that (b)(6) (b)(6) does not hold VA recognition. Accordingly, as an organization, (b)(6) (b)(6) is prohibited by law from assisting Veterans in the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of their VA benefits claims.

