

(c) *Participation of associated or affiliated attorneys.* With the specific written consent of the appellant, an attorney associated or affiliated with the appellant's attorney of record, including an attorney employed by the same legal services office as the attorney of record, may assist in representation of the appellant and may have access to the appellant's Department of Veterans Affairs records to the same extent as the attorney of record. Unless revoked by the appellant, such consent will remain effective in the event the original attorney of record is replaced by another attorney who is a member of the same law firm or an attorney employed by the same legal services office. The consent must include the name of the veteran; the name of the appellant if other than the veteran (e.g., a veteran's survivor, a guardian, or a fiduciary appointed to receive VA benefits on an individual's behalf); the applicable Department of Veterans Affairs file number; the name of the attorney of record; the consent of the appellant for the use of the services of the associated or affiliated attorney and for that individual to have access to applicable Department of Veterans Affairs records; and the name of the associated or affiliated attorney who will be assisting in the case. The consent must be filed with the agency of original jurisdiction or, if the appellate record has been certified to the Board for review, with the Board of Veterans' Appeals. The presiding Member at a hearing on appeal may require that not more than one attorney participate in the examination of any one witness or impose other reasonable limitations to ensure orderly conduct of the hearing.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5901, 5904)

[57 FR 4109, Feb. 3, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 20450, May 7, 1996]

**§ 20.604 Rule 604. Representation by agents.**

(a) *Designation.* The designation of an agent will be by a duly executed power of attorney, VA Form 22a, "Appointment of Attorney or Agent as Claimant's Representative," or its equivalent. The designation must be of an individual, rather than a firm or partnership. The designation will be effective when it is received by the agency of

original jurisdiction or, if the appellate record has been certified to the Board for review, by the Board of Veterans' Appeals. A properly filed designation made prior to appeal will continue to be honored, unless it has been revoked or unless the representative has properly withdrawn.

(b) *Admission to practice.* The provisions of 38 U.S.C. 5904 and of § 14.629(b) of this chapter are applicable to the admission of agents to practice before the Department of Veterans Affairs. Authority for making determinations concerning admission to practice rests with the General Counsel of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and any questions concerning admissions to practice should be addressed to: Office of the General Counsel (022A), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5904)

[57 FR 4109, Feb. 3, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 20450, May 7, 1996]

**§ 20.605 Rule 605. Other persons as representative.**

(a) *Scope of rule.* This section applies to representation other than by a recognized organization, an agent admitted to practice before the Department of Veterans Affairs, or an attorney-at-law.

(b) *Who may act as representative.* Any competent person may be recognized as a representative for a particular claim, unless that person has been barred from practice before the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(c) *Designation.* The designation of an individual to act as an appellant's representative may be made by executing a VA Form 22a, "Appointment of Attorney or Agent as Claimant's Representative." This form gives the individual power of attorney to represent the appellant in all matters pertaining to the presentation and prosecution of claims for any and all benefits under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. In lieu of using the form, the designation may be by a written document signed by both the appellant and the individual representative, which may be in the form of a