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for Book A of your set of
Federal Regulations**

Title 38, Parts 0, 1, 2, 12, 14-16,
18-20, 25-26, 38-45, 48-49, 74-75

General

Veterans Benefits Administration

Supplement No. 110

Covering period of *Federal Register* issues
through August 1, 2013

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GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Custom Federal Regulations Service™

Supplemental Materials for *Book A*

Code of Federal Regulations

Title 38, Parts 0, 1, 2, 12, 14-16, 18-20, 25-26, 38-45, 48-49, 74-75

General

Veterans Benefits Administration

Supplement No. 110

5 August 2013

Covering the period of Federal Register issues
through August 1, 2013

When **Book A** was originally prepared, it was current through final regulations published in the *Federal Register* of 21 April 1992. These supplemental materials are designed to keep your regulations up to date. You should file the attached pages immediately, and record the fact that you did so on the *Supplement Filing Record* which begins on page A-8 of Book A, *General*.

**To ensure accuracy and timeliness of your materials,
it is important that you follow these simple procedures:**

1. Always file your supplemental materials immediately upon receipt.
2. Before filing, always check the Supplement Filing Record (page A-8) to be sure that all prior supplements have been filed. If you are missing any supplements, contact the Veterans Benefits Administration at the address listed on page A-2.
3. After filing, enter the relevant information on the Supplement Filing Record sheet (page A-8)—the date filed, name/initials of filer, and date through which the *Federal Register* is covered.
4. If as a result of a failure to file, or an undelivered supplement, you have more than one supplement to file at a time, be certain to file them in chronological order, lower number first.
5. Always retain the filing instructions (simply insert them at the back of the book) as a backup record of filing and for reference in case of a filing error.
6. Be certain that you *permanently discard* any pages indicated for removal in the filing instructions in order to avoid confusion later.

To execute the filing instructions, simply remove *and throw away* the pages listed under *Remove These Old Pages*, and replace them in each case with the corresponding pages from this supplement listed under *Add These New Pages*. Occasionally new pages will be added without removal of any old material (reflecting new regulations), and occasionally old pages will be removed without addition of any new material (reflecting rescinded regulations)—in these cases the word *None* will appear in the appropriate column.

FILING INSTRUCTIONS

Book A, Supplement No. 110

August 5, 2013

*Remove these
old pages*

*Add these
new pages*

*Section(s)
Affected*

**Do not file this supplement until you confirm that
all prior supplements have been filed**

1.577-1 to 1.579-1

1.577-1 to 1.579-1

§1.577

**Be sure to complete the
Supplement Filing Record (page A-8)
when you have finished filing this material.**

HIGHLIGHTS

Book A, Supplement No. 110 August 5, 2013

Supplement Highlights references: Where substantive changes are made in the text of regulations, the paragraphs of *Highlights* sections are cited at the end of the relevant section of text. Thus, if you are reading §3.263, you will see a note at the end of that section which reads: “Supplement *Highlights* references—6(2).” This means that paragraph 2 of the *Highlights* section in Supplement No. 6 contains information about the changes made in §3.263. By keeping and filing the *Highlights* sections, you will have a reference source explaining all substantive changes in the text of the regulations.

Supplement frequency: This Book A (*General*) was originally supplemented twice a year, in April and October. Beginning 1 August 1995, supplements will be issued *every month* during which a final rule addition or modification is made to the parts of Title 38 covered by this book. Supplements will be numbered consecutively as issued.

Modifications in this supplement include the following:

1. On 29 July 2013, the VA published a final rule effective that same day, to amend its regulations concerning the sharing of certain patient information in order to implement VA's authority to participate in State Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs). Participation in PDMPs will allow the VA patient population to benefit from the reduction in negative health outcomes. Changes:

- In §1.577, removed paragraph (d) and revised new paragraph (e).



§1.577 Access to records.

(a) Except as otherwise provided by law or regulation any individual upon request may gain access to his or her record or to any information pertaining to him or her which is contained in any system of records maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The individual will be permitted, and upon his or her request, a person of his or her own choosing permitted to accompany him or her, to review the record and have a copy made of all or any portion thereof in a form comprehensible to him or her. The Department of Veterans Affairs will require, however, a written statement from the individual authorizing discussion of that individual's record in the accompanying person's presence.

(b) Any individual will be notified, upon request, if any Department of Veterans Affairs system of records named contains a record pertaining to him or her. Such request must be in writing, over the signature of the requester. The request must contain a reasonable description of the Department of Veterans Affairs system or systems of records involved, as described at least annually by notice published in the *Federal Register* describing the existence and character of the Department of Veterans Affairs system or systems of records pursuant to §1.578(d). The request should be made to the office concerned (having jurisdiction over the system or systems of records involved) or, if not known, to the Director or Department of Veterans Affairs Officer in the nearest Department of Veterans Affairs regional office, or to the Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. Personal contact should normally be made during the regular duty hours of the office concerned, which are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday for Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office and most field facilities. Identification of the individual requesting the information will be required and will consist of the requester's name, signature, address, and claim, insurance or other identifying file number, if any, as a minimum. Additional identifying data or documents may be required in specified categories as determined by operating requirements and established and publicized by the promulgation of Department of Veterans Affairs regulations. (5 U.S.C. 552a(f)(1))

(c) The department or staff office having jurisdiction over the records involved will establish appropriate disclosure procedures and will notify the individual requesting disclosure of his or her record or information pertaining to him or her of the time, place and conditions under which the Department of Veterans Affairs will comply to the extent permitted by law and Department of Veterans Affairs regulation. (5 U.S.C. 552a(f)(2))

(d) Nothing in 5 U.S.C. 552a, however, allows an individual access to any information compiled in reasonable anticipation of civil action or proceeding. (5 U.S.C. 552a(d)(5))

(e) Fees to be charged, if any, to any individual for making copies of his or her record shall not include the cost of any search for and review of the record, and will be as follows:

Activity	Fees
(1) Duplication of documents by any type of reproduction process to produce plain one-sided paper copies of a standard size (8-1/2" x 11"; 8-1/2" x 14"; 11" x 14").	\$0.15 per page after first 100 one-sided pages.
(2) Duplication of non-paper records, such as microforms, audiovisual materials (motion pictures, slides, laser optical disks, video tapes, audiotapes, etc.) computer tapes and disks, diskettes for personal computers, and any other automated media output.	Actual direct cost to the Agency as defined in §1.555(a)(2) of this part to the extent that it pertains to the cost of duplication.
(3) Duplication of documents by any type of reproduction process not covered by paragraphs (e)(1) and (2) of this section to produce a copy in a form reasonably usable by a requester.	Actual direct cost to the Agency as defined in §1.555(a)(2) of this part to the extent that it pertains to the cost of duplication.

Note: Fees for any activities other than duplication by any type of reproducing process will be assessed under the provisions of §1.526(i) or (j) of this part of any other applicable law.)

(f) When VA benefit records, which are retrievable by name or individual identifier of a VA beneficiary or applicant for VA benefits, are requested by the individual to whom the record pertains, the duplication fee for one complete set of such records will be waived. (Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552a(f)(5)) (38 U.S.C. 501(a))

[40 FR 33944, Aug, 12, 1975, as amended at 47 FR 16323, Apr. 16, 1982; 53 FR 10380, Mar, 31, 1988; 55 FR 21546, May 25, 1990; 78 FR 45457, July 29, 2013]

Supplement *Highlights* Reference(s): 110(1)

Next Section is §1.579

§1.579 Amendment of records.

(a) Any individual may request amendment of any Department of Veterans Affairs record pertaining to him or her. Not later than 10 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays) after the date or receipt of such request, the Department of Veterans Affairs will acknowledge in writing such receipt. The Department of Veterans Affairs will complete the review to amend or correct a record as soon as reasonably possible, normally within 30 days from the receipt of the request (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays) unless unusual circumstances preclude completing action within that time. The Department of Veterans Affairs will promptly either:

(1) Correct any part thereof which the individual believes is not accurate, relevant, timely or complete; or

(2) Inform the individual of the Department of Veterans Affairs refusal to amend the record in accordance with his or her request, the reason for the refusal, the procedures by which the individual may request a review of that refusal by the Secretary or designee, and the name and address of such official. (Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552a(d)(2))

(b) The administration or staff office having jurisdiction over the records involved will establish procedures for reviewing a request from an individual concerning the amendment of any record or information pertaining to the individual, for making a determination on the request, for an appeal within the Department of Veterans Affairs of an initial adverse Department of Veterans Affairs determination, and for whatever additional means may be necessary for each individual to be able to exercise fully, his or her right under 5 U.S.C. 552a.

(1) Headquarters officials designated as responsible for the amendment of records or information located in Central Office and under their jurisdiction include, but are not limited to: Secretary; Deputy Secretary, as well as other appropriate individuals responsible for the conduct of business within the various Department of Veterans Affairs administrations and staff offices. These officials will determine and advise the requester of the identifying information required to relate the request to the appropriate record, evaluate and grant or deny requests to amend, review initial adverse determinations upon request, and assist requesters desiring to amend or appeal initial adverse determinations or learn further of the provisions for judicial review.

(2) The following field officials are designated as responsible for the amendment of records or information located in facilities under their jurisdiction, as appropriate: The Director of each Center, Domiciliary, Medical Center, Outpatient Clinic, Regional Office, Supply Depot, and Regional Counsels. These officials will function in the same manner at field facilities as that specified in the preceding subparagraph for headquarters officials in Central Office. (Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552a(f)(4))

(c) Any individual who disagrees with the Department of Veterans Affairs refusal to amend his or her record may request a review of such refusal. The Department of Veterans Affairs will complete such review not later than 30 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays) from the date on which the individual request such review and make a final