



Veterans' Review Board

Adjournment Practice Direction

Seeking an adjournment after a case is listed for hearing

This practice direction sets out the policy and procedures of the Board relating to applications for adjournments of hearings, after a case is listed for hearing. Please note, in previous Board publications, this type of request had been referred to as a “postponement”. The practice direction applies to all applications lodged at the Board throughout Australia.

The Board understands that some requests for an adjournment are unavoidable, for example, a sudden illness or other mishap can occur. However, the Board has a responsibility to manage cases so that they are brought to a conclusion at the earliest reasonable opportunity. Bearing in mind this objective, as well as the Board’s obligation to give parties a reasonable opportunity to present their case, the following policy will be applied by the Board:

1. Matters are listed for hearing on the basis that the hearing will proceed on the date fixed.
2. An application to adjourn a matter, once it has been listed for hearing, must be made at the earliest possible opportunity. The request is to be made to the local Registrar, in writing. You must indicate the reasons why you are seeking an adjournment and provide any documents that support the reasons for seeking an adjournment. The request must be signed by the person or representative seeking the adjournment.
3. The request for an adjournment will then be referred to the Presiding Member or Principal Member for consideration.
4. An application for an adjournment made less than ten working days prior to the hearing date will not be granted unless there are particular and compelling reasons for the matter to be adjourned. Applications made the day of a hearing, even when advance notice has been given, will not be granted. In such cases, the hearing will commence as scheduled and the VRB panel will determine, after considering all the circumstances and the material before it, whether it will proceed with the hearing or adjourn the matter.

5. Where an adjournment is granted, the matter will not usually be adjourned generally but will be re-listed as soon as possible to a date to be fixed by the Registrar.

Doug Humphreys

Principal Member

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