

Hearing Prep

User Training Guide





Revision Date	Summary of Changes	Version	Author
April 2018	Initial Release	1	
May 2018	Added section on Procedural History	2	



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Introduction

Caseflow Hearing Prep (Hearing Prep) was by built by the Digital Service at VA (DSVA) to help judges to more accurately and expeditiously prepare for their hearings online. It allows judges to view their upcoming hearings, view relevant appellant information, take notes before and during a hearing as well as review documents in a Veteran's claim folder.

Accessing and Using Hearing Prep

Logging into Hearing Prep

- 1. Connect to the VA network.
- Using your Google Chrome browser, navigate to https://appeals.cf.ds.va.gov/hearings/dockets.
- 3. Sign in using your VA credentials.
- 4. The first page of Hearing Prep is **Your Hearing Days**, which shows a list of all your upcoming hearings and past hearings (held within the past year).

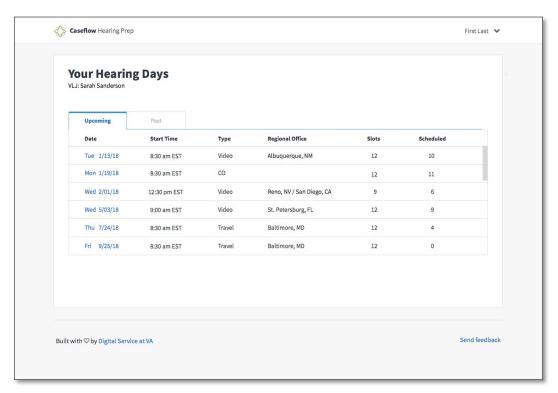


Figure 1 - Your Hearing Days



Reviewing a Your Hearing Days

The **Your Hearing Days** page allows you to see a list of all upcoming and past hearings.

Accessing Upcoming Hearings

• Under the *Upcoming* tab on the **Your Hearing Days** page, click the date of the hearing to view that date's docket.

Note: Hearing date dockets may be viewed up to 30 days in advance. If there are no hearings scheduled, the date will not be clickable.

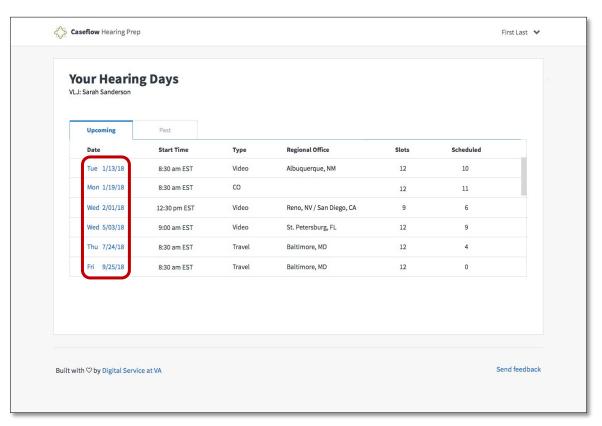


Figure 2 – Your Hearing Days: Upcoming Hearings



- You will then be taken to the Daily Docket for that hearing date.
- The **Daily Docket** lists the hearings scheduled for the day by start time.

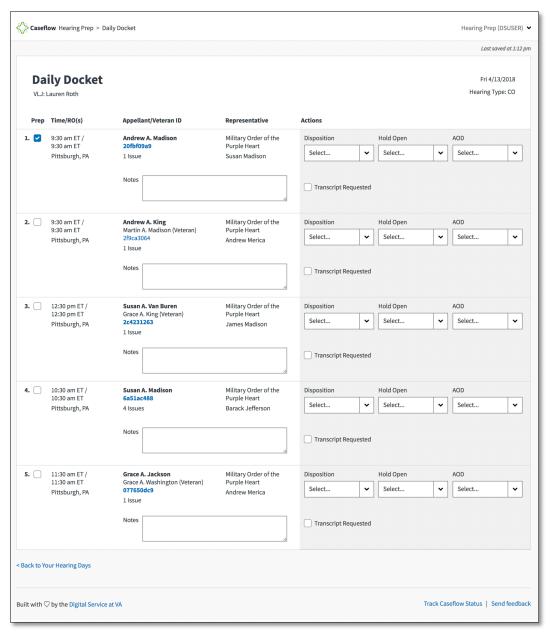


Figure 3 - Daily Docket

Note: Click the "Back to Your Hearing Days" link at the bottom left-hand corner of the page, or the Caseflow Hearing Prep logo at the top left-hand corner of the page, to return to the Your Hearing Days page.



Accessing Past Hearings

• Under the *Past* tab on the **Your Hearing Days** page, click the date of the hearing you would like to view.

Note: The Daily Docket and Hearing Worksheets will be accessible within Hearing Prep for one year, thereafter they can be accessed only from the Case Details page in Caseflow Queue.

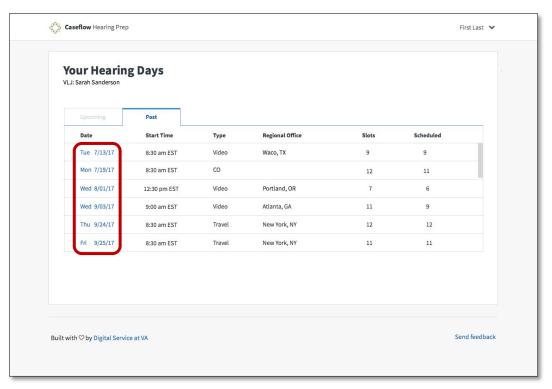
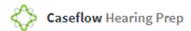


Figure 4 – Your Hearing Days: Past Hearings



- You will then be taken to the Daily Docket for the selected date.
- The **Daily Docket** lists the hearings that were scheduled for that date.

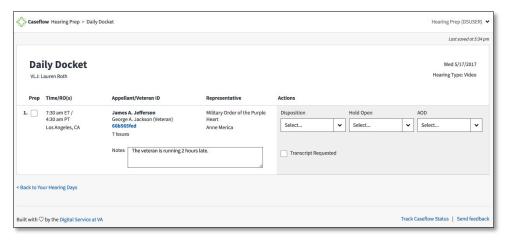


Figure 5 - Daily Docket

Note: Click the "Back to Your Hearing Days" link at the bottom left-hand corner of the page, or the Caseflow Hearing Prep logo at the top left-hand corner of the page, to return to the Your Hearing Days page. (move this next to the image)



Using the Daily Docket

- The Daily Docket lists the hearings scheduled for the day, along with Time/Regional Office, Appellant's name, Veteran's ID, number of issues, Representing Organization, and Representative's name. Also included is a box to check when a hearing has been prepped, an area for Notes to communicate with the hearing coordinator, and a section for Actions related to the appeal.
- Information added to Notes and to Actions will be saved to VACOLS.

Prep Checkbox

• Click the **Prep** checkbox to keep track of the hearings you have prepped.

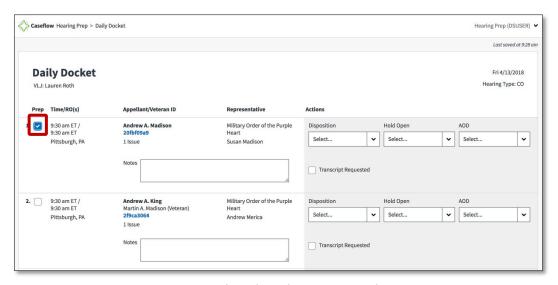


Figure 6 - Daily Docket indicating a prepped case

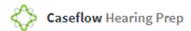
Actions

Disposition

Disposition is used to indicate the disposition of the hearing. The options are "Held", "No Show", "Cancelled", or "Postponed".

Hold Open

Hold Open is used to indicate whether the hearing should be held open. The **Hold Open** options are "0", "30", "60", and "90" days and also includes the relevant dates.



AOD

Advance on Docket (**AOD**) is used to indicate whether a case has AOD status. The options are "Granted", "Filed", and "None".

Transcript Requested

The **Transcript Requested** box is used to indicate whether the Veteran has requested a transcript of the hearing.

Notes

The **Notes** field displays information related to the hearing and hearing logistics. This information can be added by the judge or the hearing coordinator. This information is saved and updated to VACOLS.

• Click within the **Notes** field to begin typing hearing notes.

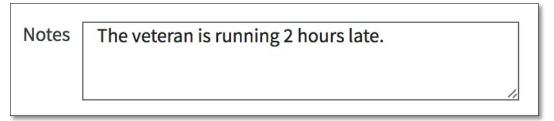


Figure 7- Daily Docket "Notes" Field



Note: Refreshing the Daily Docket page in the Google Chrome browser will allow you to see the most recent updates to the Notes field. The Daily Docket must be refreshed manually.

• Click the refresh icon to refresh the Daily Docket page.

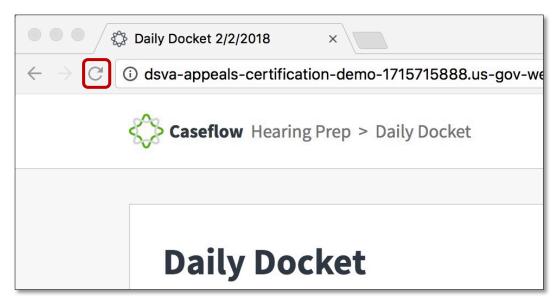
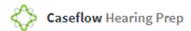


Figure 8 - Google Chrome browser refresh icon



Accessing the Hearing Worksheet

• Click the Veteran's ID number located under the Appellant or Veteran's name to access the Hearing Worksheet.

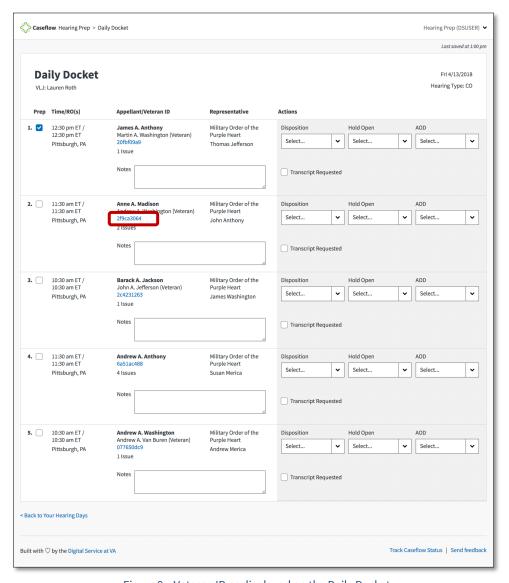
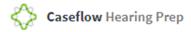


Figure 9 – Veteran ID as displayed on the Daily Docket

Note: The Representative name is listed under the name of the Representative Organization.



• You will be taken to the **Hearing Worksheet** for that Veteran from the Daily Docket. You will see relevant information about the Veteran, Appellant and relevant information for each appeal stream.

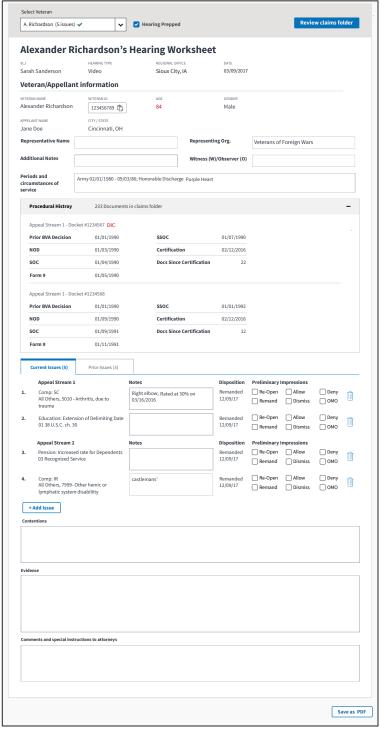


Figure 10 - Hearing Worksheet



Selecting a Veteran

At the top of the Hearing Worksheet, you may move to the Hearing Worksheet of another Veteran on the same docket by selecting the "Select Veteran" dropdown. You may use the Hearing Prepped checkbox to mark prepped worksheets. You will see the checkmark in the dropdown menu.

- Click the dropdown arrow next to the Veteran's name.
- Select the desired Veteran from the dropdown menu.

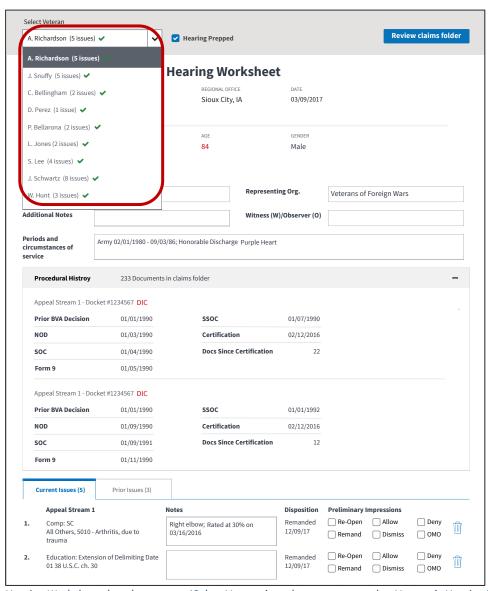
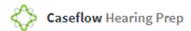


Figure 11 – Hearing Worksheet dropdown menu 'Select Veteran' used to move to another Veteran's Hearing Worksheet



Reviewing Procedural History

Under Procedural History you can see how many documents are contained in the Veteran's claims folder and view the dates of key events for each appeal stream. Contested claims and Death & Indemnity Compensation claims will be indicated with a red CC or DIC.

Click the "-" to collapse the Procedural History section.

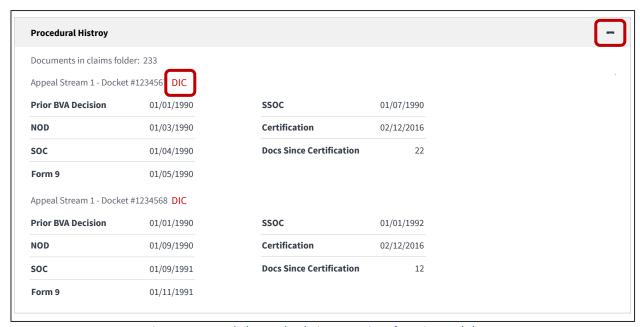


Figure 12- Expanded Procedural History section of Hearing Worksheet

Click the "+" to expand the Procedural History section.

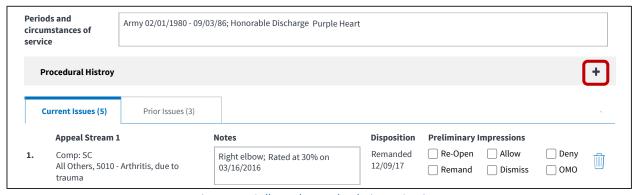


Figure 13 - Collapsed Procedural History Section



Adding and Deleting Issues on the Hearing Worksheet

The Appeal Stream section of the Hearing Worksheet shows the Current and Prior Issues on appeal for each appeal stream and its disposition and date, if there is one.



Figure 14 - Appeal Stream as shown on the Hearing Worksheet

Note: Prior Issues are the issues with decisions in the field (before the hearing). If there are none, the Prior Issues tab will not be viewable.

Adding an Issue

- Click +Add Issue to add an issue to an appeal stream. A new row of boxes will appear.
- Type the relevant information for the issue into the new row of boxes.

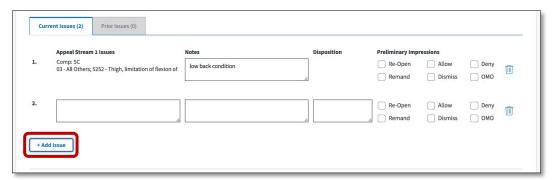
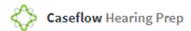


Figure 15 - Adding an Issue to an Appeal Stream on the Hearing Worksheet



Deleting an Issue

Click the trashcan icon located to the right of the issue you wish to delete.

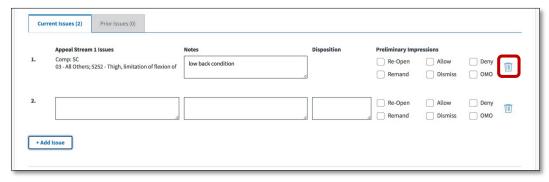


Figure 16 - Deleting an Issue from an Appeal Stream on the Hearing Worksheet

• Click *Confirm delete* in the **Delete Issue Row** dialog box to remove the issue from the Hearing Worksheet.

Note: The issue will be removed from the Hearing Worksheet but will remain in VACOLS.

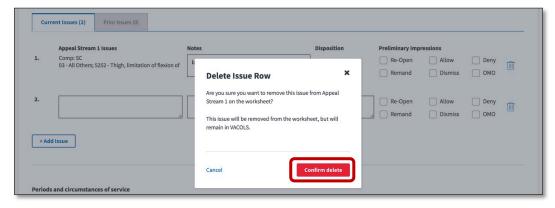
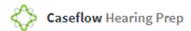


Figure 17 – Confirming the deletion of an issue in the "Delete Issue Row" dialog box



Printing the Hearing Worksheet

The Hearing Worksheet may be saved as a PDF or printed, if required.

• Click **Save as PDF** located at the bottom right-hand corner of the Hearing Worksheet to save as a PDF or print. A dialog box will display to allow you to select your option.

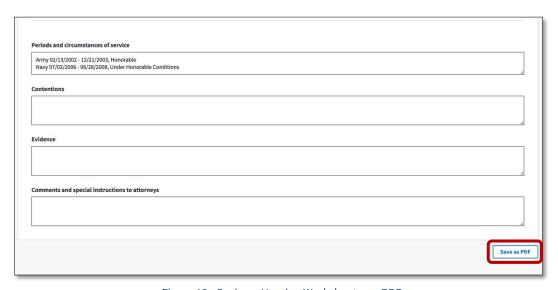


Figure 18 - Saving a Hearing Worksheet as a PDF



Reviewing a Veteran's claims folder

 Click the Review claims folder button located at the upper right-hand corner of the Hearing Worksheet page to begin reviewing the Veteran's claims folder in Caseflow Reader.

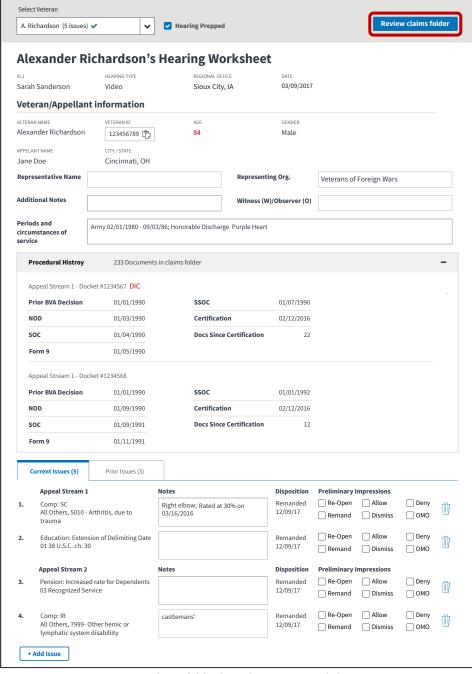


Figure 19 - Reviewing a claims folder from the Hearing Worksheet in Hearing Prep



Case Summary

You are now on the **Claims Folder** page in Caseflow Reader. The Claims Folder displays all the documents in a Veteran's file. By default, the document relevant to Hearing Prep will be filtered on the yellow, Case Summary category. The list includes:

- the BVA Decision
- Notice of Disagreement
- Statement of Case,
- VA 9 Appeal to Board of Appeals
- the Rating Decision Narrative
- the Rating Decision Codesheet
- Supplement Statement of Case
- VA8 Certification of Appeal
- DD Form 214 Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty
- VA 21-526EZ Fully Developed Claim (Compensation)
- VA 21-527EZ Fully Developed Claim (Pension)
- VA 21-22 Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative
- VA 21-22a Appointment of Individual as Claimant's Representative
- Hearing Transcript
- and any document added in the last 30 days.

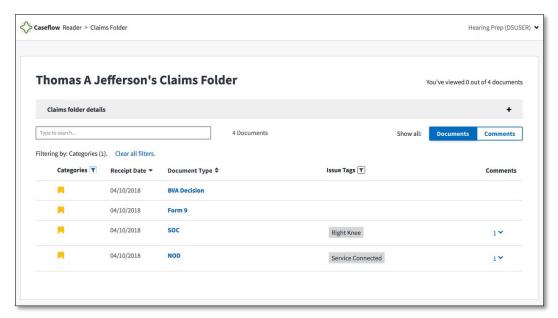
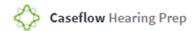


Figure 20 - Cases Summary category in Caseflow Reader



To see all of the documents in the claims folder, click "Clear all filters".

Note: Clearing all filters will not remove the Case Summary flag from documents in that category.

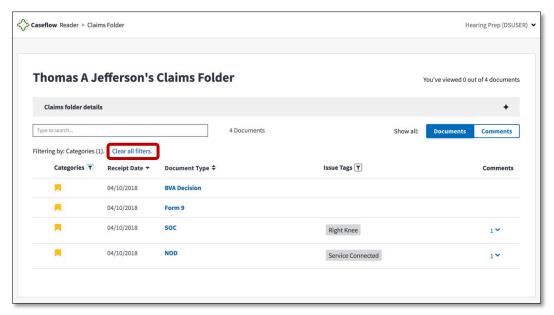


Figure 21 - Clearing all filters to view the Veteran's entire Claims Folder in Caseflow Reader

 To return to the Case Summary filtered Document list, select Case Summary from the Category list.

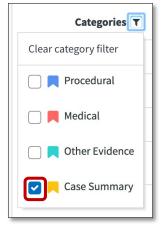


Figure 22 - Filtering Veteran's Claims Folder by Categories



Feedback and Support

The Caseflow Team is always open to learn about your experience with Hearing Prep. This includes things you like, things you dislike, and feature you would like to see added. You may also ask questions when you need help.

To Provide Feedback

- Click on username dropdown arrow.
- Select "Send Feedback".
- Complete Feedback form with your comment or feedback and contact email.
- Click **Send Feedback** button.

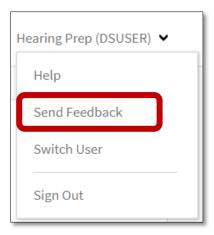


Figure 23 - Selecting "Send Feedback" from the dropdown menu next to username

Note: A "Send Feedback" link may also be found at the bottom of each page.

If you experience technical issues or need more support, please contact the Caseflow Product Support Team at caseflow@va.gov or 1-844-876-5548 (Monday through Friday, 8am-8pm EST).



Caseflow Status Page

The Caseflow Status Page provides the operational status for all Caseflow applications, from Reader to Queue, at a glance. To view the Caseflow Status Page, type, or copy and paste, the URL (https://caseflow.statuspage.io/) into your web browser and click [Enter] on your keyboard. You can stay abreast of the operational status of Caseflow applications by clicking the **Subscribe to Updates** button on the Caseflow Status Page.

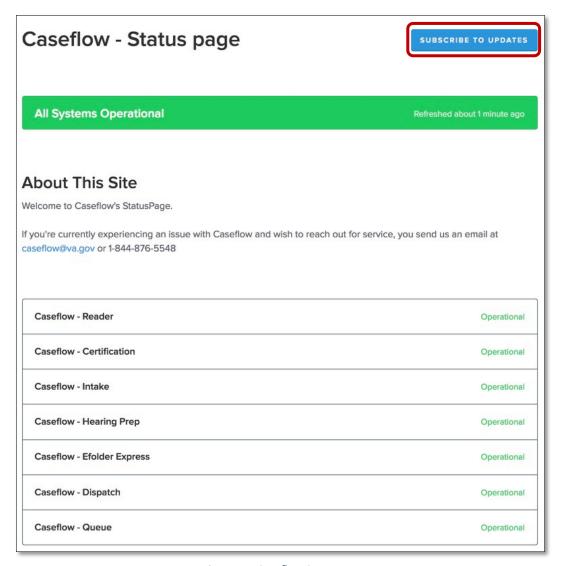
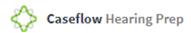


Figure 24 - Caseflow Status Page



You may also access the Caseflow Status Page by clicking the "Track Caseflow Status" link located on the bottom right-hand corner of the page of any Caseflow application.



Figure 25 - "Track Caseflow Status" link