

We received your election of the Decision Review Officer (DRO) process to handle your appeal. Our records show that you filed a notice of disagreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) decision of May 17, 2011. This letter describes what happens next.

**If there is any other evidence or information that you think will support your appeal, please let us know. If the information or evidence is in your possession, please send it to us.**

**Please Note:** If there are any new private treatment reports you would like for us to request, please complete, sign, and return the attached VA Form 21-4142, "Authorization and Consent to Release Information to the Department of Veterans Affairs."

**NOTE:** The purpose of a VA Form 9 is to perfect an appeal once a Statement of the Case is provided. The VA Form 9 you submitted on July 08, 2011 is premature. It cannot be used in perfecting your appeal prior to a Statement of the Case.

### **Will VA try to resolve my disagreement?**

This local office of VA will try to resolve your disagreement through the Post-Decision Review process. As part of this process, you have elected to have a DRO assigned to your case.

### **How does the Post-Decision Review Process Work?**

**Complete review:** The DRO will check your file for completeness. Then a review will be made of your evidence and arguments, statements from your representative, and any other information available in your claims folder. This may lead to a request for additional evidence. You may be asked to participate in an informal conference by the DRO to clarify questions about your disagreement.

**New decision:** The DRO will then make a new decision. You will be notified of the decision and your appeal rights

