Pension and fiduciary service

PMC VSR Intermediate Core Course  
Phase 5: Proficiency Development  
Part 1(a): Types of Claims

Introduction to Old Law and Section 306 Programs

Trainee Guide

May 2024

Introduction to Old Law and Section 306

Lesson Overview

| Topic | Description |
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| Time Estimate: | 30 min. |
| Purpose of the Lesson: | This lesson is part of the entry-level curriculum, Core Course for PMC VSRs. The purpose of this lesson is to prepare you to recognize Section 306 and Old Law Pension related claims. |
| Prerequisite Training Requirements: | Prior to taking Introduction to Old Law and Section 306 lesson, trainees must complete PMC VSR Core Course Phases 1–4. |
| Lesson References: | * **M21-1 IX.iii.1.C. (Section 306 Pension and Old-Law Pension)** * **M21-1 IX.iii.1.C.1.a (Continuity of Entitlement)** * **M21-1 IX.iii.1.C.1.b (**Calendar Year IVAP**)** * **M21-1 IX.iii.1.C.1.c (**Section 306 Pension Countable Income**)** * **M21-1 IX.iii.1.C.1.e (**Old-Law Pension Countable Income**)** * **M21-1 IX.iii.2.C.1.c. (When the Right of Continued Entitlement to Old Law or Section 306 Pension Is Not Protected)** * **M21-1 IX.iii.2.C.1.d. (Changing a Beneficiary’s Benefit Type)** * **M21-1 IX.iii.2.C.2.b. (Action to Take When an Election is Not in the Claimant's Interest)** * **Old Law and Section 306 Pension Programs** job aid |
| Knowledge Check | Phase 5: Proficiency Development: Types of Claims (Introduction to Old Law and Section 306 Programs) |
| Technical Competencies | * Program Benefits and Eligibility (PMC VSR) * Processing Claims (PMC VSR) * VBA Applications (PMC VSR) |
| Lesson Objectives: | At the end of this lesson, trainees will be able to:   * Recognize an Old Law or Section 306 pension claim.   + Describe the characteristics of Old Law.   + Describe the characteristics of Section 306 pension. |
| What You Need: | * Trainee Guide * Access to VBA Intranet * Access to a whiteboard/electronic whiteboard * Access to the following systems:   + SHARE   + VBMS * Access to the following job aids:   + **Old Law and Section 306 Pension Programs** job aid |

| PowerPoint Slides | Notes |
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| **Introduction to Old Law and Section 306** |  |
| **Lesson Objectives**  **At the end of this lesson, you will be able to:**   * Recognize an Old Law or Section 306 pension claim. * Describe the characteristics of Old Law. * Describe the characteristics of Section 306 pension. |  |
| **Why This Matters!**  The **Introduction to Old Law and Section 306 Programs** course matters because these claims are rare.   * Entitlement to these pension programs is restricted to beneficiaries who were continuously entitled to receive benefits from the dates on which the programs were phased out until the present. * Section 306 and Old Law beneficiaries continue to receive the rates to which they were entitled on their respective phase-out dates. |  |
| **What You Need to Know about Old Law and  Section 306 Pension Claims**   * These are most likely to be seen during claim maintenance. * Old Law and Section 306 pension rates are protected. * If a beneficiary of Old Law or Section 306 wants to receive a higher rate of pension, the beneficiary must elect current-law pension. * Old Law and Section 306 pension can be discontinued due to:   + Excessive Income   + Excessive Net Worth   + Dependency Status Change   + Disability Status Change   + Fraud |  |
| **Overview of Old Law and Section 306 Pension Programs**   * Entitlement is restricted to beneficiaries who were continuously entitled to receive benefits from the dates on which the programs were phased out until the present. * Old Law   + June 30, 1960 * Section 306   + December 31, 1978 |  |
| **Characteristics of Old Law Pension Program**   * Benefits for Old Law are calculated on a calendar year basis. * Claims for Old Law must show that continuous entitlement from June 30, 1960, can be established. * Only certain types of income constitute countable income for Old Law pension benefits. |  |

| PowerPoint Slides | Notes |
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| **Characteristics of Section 306 Pension Program**   * Benefits for Section 306 pension are calculated on a calendar year basis. * Income must be below the Maximum Annual Pension Rate (MAPR) to keep the protected rate. * Claims for Section 306 pension must show that continuous entitlement from December 31, 1978, can be established. |  |
| **How to Recognize an Old Law or Section 306 Pension Claim**   * Review entitlement column on the Award Information tab in the Corporate Record. * Review the rate being received. * Review the date of entitlement. |  |
| **Group Practice Exercise—Entitlement to Old Law and 306 Pension Benefits**   * Instructions:   + The instructor will read the scenario(s) aloud.   + Access CPKM to use the M21-1.   + Raise your hand when you know the answer.   + Explain the reason for your answer. * Time allowed: 10 min. |  |
| **Scenario 1—Is the Claimant Entitled to Old Law or 306 Pension Benefits?**  You receive a submission of income from a claimant. You review the claim and see that the claimant is receiving entitlement under Section 306 pension. You review the submission of income and determine the income is from unemployment compensation. Based on the type of income received, is the claimant still entitled to receive Section 306 pension? |  |
| **Scenario 2—Should the Claimant Continue to Receive Old Law Pension Benefits?**  You receive an election from a claimant who was previously receiving pension under Old Law. After reviewing all information in the claim, you determine the monthly rate of the current-law pension would be less than what the claimant is currently receiving under Old Law pension. Based on your findings, what action would you take? |  |

| PowerPoint Slides | Notes |
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| **Knowledge Check: Lesson Summary Review**    **Time Allowed: 10 minutes** |  |
| **What’s Next**   * **Complete course evaluation in TMS. TMS ID 4189360** |  |