

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR VETERANS CLAIMS**

ROBERT V. CHISHOLM,)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	Vet. App. No. 15-1594
)	
ROBERT A. McDONALD,)	
Secretary of Veterans Affairs,)	
Respondent.)	

JOINT PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO THE COURT’S BENCH ORDER

On March 2, 2016, at the conclusion of the oral argument held in this case on that date, the Court ordered the parties to discuss the issue of providing read-only access to VA’s electronic database, with the goal of providing appropriate access to Petitioner’s representatives, and report within 30 days whether they have been able to resolve the matter. On March 15, 2016, the Court issued a written order, in which it also directed the parties to include the dates and times upon which their discussions occurred.

The parties initially spoke on March 14, 2016, at approximately 1:00 p.m. to get a preliminary sense of how to proceed with more formal discussion. Then, on March 29, at 2:00 p.m., the parties discussed the issue of providing read-only access to VA’s electronic database, with the goal of providing appropriate access to Petitioner’s representatives. Though the parties have not yet reached an agreement, their good faith negotiations are ongoing. The parties, therefore, request an additional 30 days to continue negotiations.

WHEREFORE, the parties respectfully respond to the Court’s order from the bench on March 2, 2016, and written order issued on March 15, 2016, and they seek leave for an additional 30 days to continue discussions toward a mutually agreeable resolution of the matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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