

BOARD PROCEDURES

The VCCB is composed of three members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the legislature. By statute, one member is a medical or osteopathic physician licensed to practice in the state and one member is an attorney. Prior to this time period, the medical doctor and attorney member were statutorily required to be actively practicing their profession. The Board recognized that this limitation disqualified a tremendous potential resource for victims. Therefore, the Board sought the support of the administration and state legislature to change the law. The Board was successful and the law has been changed. The law now allows retired doctors and attorneys to serve on the Board. Members of the Board receive no salary, and their only compensation is in the knowledge that they have served innocent victims.

The Board administrator makes recommendations on all determinations and has the authority to close certain types of claims. The Board meets four to six times in a calendar year to consider all pending claims and claims up for additional consideration. All Board decisions are final except as otherwise noted.

The Board has the legal authority to appoint one or more hearing officers to conduct hearings. During this reporting period, the Board utilized the services of the Department of Administration, Office of Administrative Appeal, Administrative Law Judge(s). All appeals follow a prescribed legal process. For further information, please visit our website at <http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/ADMIN/vccb> or contact Board staff for a copy of the Legal Appeal Pamphlet.

Hearings may be held at the Board's directive or upon claimant request. The Administrative Law Judge and the Board Administrator act in concert to ensure all pertinent information and testimony are included in the hearing record. The Administrative Law Judge reports his or her findings of fact and conclusions of law to the Board and the Board acts based upon due consideration of the report and the evidence.

The Board may appoint and fix the duties of personnel necessary to carry out its functions. In 2005, day-to-day program management was performed by Susan Browne, Administrator, and staff.