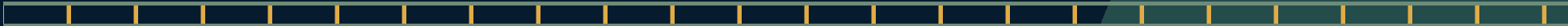




PACT ACT AND TOXIC EXPOSURE

PRESUMPTIVE VS DIRECT TOXIC EXPOSURE CLAIM

A field guide to presumptions, exposure evidence, TERA development, and claim pathways.



FIELD REFERENCE

FOUR POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

P

PRESUMPTIVE PATH

Prove an exact listed condition and qualifying service. VA presumes the relationship unless rebutted.

D

DIRECT PATH

Prove a current disability, in-service exposure or event, and a medical relationship.

BOTH

DEVELOP BOTH WHEN SUPPORTED

A condition that misses a presumption may still qualify through direct service connection.

LIMIT

EXPOSURE IS NOT A DIAGNOSIS

Exposure can establish an event, but compensation requires a current disability.

Apply the exact current law to the individual record. Exposure, screening, health-care eligibility, and disability compensation are related but distinct.

